Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Peres, 'Arafat Meet in Switzerland 29-30 Jan

Musa, Peres Confer Before Talks

TA2901112994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa in Davos this morning in anticipation of his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat this evening. The PLO chairman told a British diplomat the gap between the sides is wide and outside intervention is required to bridge it.

The Egyptian foreign minister will meet 'Arafat after the latter arrives in Davos this afternoon, and later he will hold another meeting with Peres. Mr. Peres expects a tough meeting with 'Arafat, perhaps the toughest so far at this stage of the talks.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1300 GMT on 29 January reports that "Musa told Israel radio that he intends to mediate between Israel and the Palestinians prior to the Peres-'Arafat meeting tonight. The 'Arafat-Peres meeting is due to begin at 2100, at first alone and then later with the heads of the two delegations.]

Peres Rejects Call for U.S. Help

TA3001073594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jan 94 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Sever Plotzker in Davos on 29 January]

[Text] [Plotzker] Minister Peres, what is your reaction to 'Arafat's appeal to the United States to mediate between Israel and the PLO?

[Peres] We will in no way agree to U.S. mediation. This will freeze the entire process and bring us back to square one.

[Plotzker] Will we reject the mediation even if the price would be the collapse of the talks?

[Peres] We will not agree even if the result is a breakdown of the talks. Also, I believe that the Americans will not want to mediate.

[Plotzker] Why do you think 'Arafat opted for this?

[Peres] 'Arafat has been speaking about U.S. mediation for quite some time. The Palestinians fail to understand Israel's security problem. They believe we are a superpower. Our demands for adequate security arrangements on the bridges and border crossings fall on deaf ears.

[Plotzker] Can the Israeli stands be more flexible?

[Peres] It is not a question of flexibility. We signed the Oslo agreement; the Knesset approved it; the majority of the people supports it. We must implement it to the letter. If we agree to withdraw from the agreement, we would shatter the credibility of the peace process. Naturally, this would also contradict our real security needs, on which we insist.

[Plotzker] So, what it is going to be? Will the parties forever dig in their heels?

[Peres] Let me tell you something. The people involved in the Middle East peace process are no longer young; I speak of Israel's prime minister, myself, Mr. 'Arafat, King Husayn, and President al-Asad. It is very probable that the time has come for us to take some unpopular steps and make hard decisions—because of our age—to prepare the grounds for the younger generation. After all, in five to six years, the entire Middle East leadership could be different; a new generation will take the reins. The process is essential, and I am optimistic about this new generation.

[A report by Sever Plotzker on pages 1 and 15 of the same YEDI'OT AHARONOT edition adds that, arriving in Davos, Peres said: "If 'Arafat wants to bring in the United States as a mediator, he can forget about making progress in the peace process. We have not signed the Oslo and the mutual recognition agreements for this. Such an appeal places a giant obstacle on the road to progress."]

Israeli Sources: Syria 'Key' to Progress

TA3001125094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 94 p A2

[Report from Davos by Nitzan Horowitz]

[Excerpt] A senior political source has estimated that it would be difficult to attain practical agreements with Yasir 'Arafat without making significant progress in the negotiations with Syria. According to the source, 'Arafat has been maneuvering the talks on a daily basis in order to avoid reaching a final agreement with Israel because his position as talks coordinator gives him much more influence than he would have once he assumes control over Gaza and Jericho, and the problems this entails. The political source believes that once Israel reaches a significant understanding with Syria, 'Arafat would rush to conclude all the issues in dispute because he understands that after the agreement with Syria is made, agreements with Jordan and Lebanon will immediately follow, and the PLO might find itself deserted and with no international support.

Another senior Israeli source who participates in the negotiations with the Palestinians also believes that Syria is the key to progress on all tracks. He maintains that only an agreement with Damascus will guarantee that the Rabin government's peace policy will become an irreversible situation. According to him, the government will not cross the "point of no return," as long as the conflict between Israel and Syria remains the same. This could lead to a situation in which, if a right-wing government comes to power in Israel, it could pull out of the peace process.

The foreign minister's entourage in Davos expressed satisfaction in view of the various public opinion polls published in Israel regarding a possible peace agreement with Syria. The polls, conducted by YEDI'OT AHARONOT and MA'ARIV, show a significant majority

opposing a withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Peres' men, however, claim that the polls were held before any agreement on security arrangements has been made, and before a public relations campaign explaining the advantages of peace with Syria was held. The fact that more than 30 percent support a full withdrawal and another 30 percent support a partial withdrawal indicates that the government will not find it hard to attain the support of a very large majority for the agreement—if and when a referendum is held on this subject. Peres himself had stressed that holding a referendum is still only an option.

Several officials in Davos have asked why Israel does not start discussing the permanent arrangements with the Palestinians and, instead engages in discussing border crossings arrangements which, in any event, will only last for a short period. The senior source said in response that the main reason why Israel drafted the Oslo agreement as it is pertains to the issue of Jerusalem.

According to the source, if Israel were to deal with the permanent arrangements at this time, the talks would have encountered serious difficulties over the Jerusalem issue.

The source stressed that, although the government enjoys the support of the majority of the Israeli public, "there are issues on which the majority is not sufficiently large, and it would not be wise to turn large parts of the public against the government."

The source used the same argument regarding the issue of evacuating the isolated settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip. A government source who is not a Foreign Ministry official stressed that although the issue in question refers to several dozen families—the defense of which would entail the deploying a large number of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and controlling the roads in the very crowded Gaza Strip—Israel must show that it insists that the Oslo agreement be fully honored. According to him, the agreement that will be signed with the Palestinians is just the first in a series of agreements which will be made in the near future, and it is important to establish the principle that signed agreements should not be reopened.

At the same time, sources in Davos expressed the possibility that, after the parties sign the agreement on the transfer of authorities, Israel may unilaterally decide to disband certain settlements. The sources stressed that this decision will be made by Israel alone, based on Israeli interests, and not in the framework of the negotiations with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Delegations Hold First Meeting

TA3001054794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The PLO and Israeli delegations in Davos last night issued a joint communique stating that the first meeting between the two parties was conducted in a very positive atmosphere which indicated good chances for future progress. Both delegations established a joint formulations committee which held its first meeting last night. This committee will continue work this morning. The formulations committee will deal with the major issues currently on the agenda: the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement and the issue of the border crossings. This morning, the committee will report to the plenum on the results of the discussions. The members of the formulations committee are Nabil Sha'th, Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], and Akram Haniyah, on behalf of the PLO, and its Israeli members are Uri Savir, Major General 'Uzi Dayan, and Yo'el Singer.

Minister Yosi Sarid warned against excessive optimism and explained that there were still gaps between the parties' positions. Sarid said that it would only be possible this evening to know whether an agreement had been reached.

Last night, Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres held a private meeting which lasted approximately two hours.

'Arafat, Sarid Express Optimism

TA3001154494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The meeting of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Davos—also attended by Minister Yosi Sarid and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa—has ended. After the meeting 'Arafat said that not all the problems were solved, but he expects an agreement soon. Yosi Sarid said there are ups and downs; agreement was achieved on some issues and now we are closer to an agreement. Arab sources told our correspondent Gid'on Kouts that for all intents and purposes an agreement has been achieved, except for some minor issues. Israeli members in the formulations committee said that understandings were reached on all issues; the two sides made concessions and there is a chance for reaching an agreement.

Foreign Minister Peres will stay in Davos until tomorrow morning. The contacts will be carried on tonight.

PLO Reportedly Accepts 'Compromise Proposal'

NC3001112894 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By Peter Mackler]

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, Jan 30 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO appeared moving toward a breakthrough Sunday [30 January] in talks on Palestinian autonomy with the PLO accepting a compromise proposal hammered out by negotiators overnight.

Working groups laboured through the night and morning hours to nail down details of the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Jericho and Gaza Strip under an accord signed in September.

'Abd-Rabbuh, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, told reporters in this Alpine resort town that there was now a compromise on the table and "we accept it."

He would not give details of the proposal or say explicitly whether the Israelis accepted it. But he added, "I can't say that there is any problem holding up an agreement."

Israeli officials were not immediately available for comment. Israeli sources said the proposal was being transmitted to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who had lengthy talks with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat late Saturday and was to meet with him again outside the World Economic Forum here, was asked earlier if they were close to a breakthrough. "Closer than yesterday," he replied.

He told reporters the two hours of discussions he had with 'Arafat at their hotel here Saturday were constructive but he refused to say whether they would produce an accord.

'Arafat declined to comment on progress, telling reporters at the hotel where he and Peres were staying: "You will have to wait."

"Yesterday it was going well and we hope today we continue on the same lines," 'Arafat said.

Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said the working groups of negotiators met until 3 a.m. (0200 GMT) Sunday and resumed at about 7 a.m (0600 GMT). He said they would continue their work and then 'Arafat and Peres and full delegations would meet again.

Asked about progress he said: "As long as documents are not being signed, I don't want to speculate about progress."

Peres is due to fly out Sunday night for Washington. But when asked if he was leaving Sunday night, he only said: "Maybe."

'Arafat had said at the start of his discussions with Peres, their first since a meeting in Oslo a week ago, that they hoped to get an accord here or at least "a main platform for an agreement."

Peres had added: "There are serious differences between the parties, but we are here with serious intentions. We will do all that is possible to answer hopes for peace."

Under an agreement signed on the White House lawn on September 13, the Israelis were to have started a four-month withdrawal of their troops from Jericho and the Gaza Strip on December 13.

But Israel and the PLO have been wrangling over who should control border crossings with neighbouring Jordan and Egypt, the size of the Jericho autonomous area and security for Jewish settlements.

Sarid had said earlier that if there was an agreement later Sunday it would focus on the size of the Jericho and Gaza autonomous areas as well as on the border crossings but leave many other issues still to be resolved, such as the status of Palestinian authority and administrative arrangements in the two areas.

"There are many legal questions which we have not even discussed," Sarid said.

'Arafat had arrived from Tunisia on Saturday after appealing to US President Bill Clinton for help in ending the impasse which he blamed on the Israelis. He made the same request of British Prime Minister John Major on Friday.

'Agreement' Reached on Crossings, Jericho

TA3001112594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Israeli and Palestinian spokesmen in Switzerland are now saying that progress has been made in the discussions towards reaching a compromise between the parties. PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told our correspondent in Davos, Gid'on Kouts, that the representatives of both parties in the formulations committee had accepted the compromise after making difficult concessions. According to the Palestinian sources, the formulated proposals were sent to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who will decide whether or not to accept them. Our correspondent notes that Foreign Minister Peres telephoned Mr. Rabin several times today from Switzerland. Apparently, an agreement has been reached on the issue of the border crossings and on the size of the Jericho area; however, the parties still disagree over the matter of the security zones and roads in the Gaza Strip. Israeli sources confirmed that significant progress had indeed been made in the talks. The sources nevertheless stressed that there had already been instances in the past when everything fell apart at the last moment. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who is mediating between the Palestinians and the Israelis, expressed great optimism. Minister Musa met with Yasir 'Arafat several times over the past 24 hours. Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat will meet later today at a luncheon on behalf of the international economic forum meeting at Davos.

'Arafat, Musa on 'Definite Progress'

NC3001163994 Paris AFP in English 1618 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By Peter Mackler]

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, Jan 30 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO will have a final agreement "very soon" to launch Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat said Sunday [30 January].

He made his remarks at the World Economic Forum here amid two days of intense talks between delegations headed by 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in this Alpine resort town.

But there was no clear sign how much of a breakthrough the two sides had made in stalled negotiations on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Only minutes before addressing the forum, 'Arafat said when asked if progress had been made: "Not yet."

Peres, who was also participating in a panel discussion on the Middle East here, pledged efforts to make peace but made no specific reference to the talks here.

'Arafat told the forum he and Peres had "very important and constructive talks" on ending the impasse over details of their September agreement to launch limited Palestinian self-rule in the two areas.

"We can say we are on our way to bypassing all the obstacles which had been raised in the last weeks to have very soon the final agreement to start direct implementation of the peace agreement," he said.

The PLO chief said he hoped to have an agreement signed soon in Cairo and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced President Husni Mubarak had invited the two parties for the signing. No date was mentioned.

Musa said the discussions made "definite progress that paved the way for the implementation of the agreement signed a few months ago." He said negotiations would continue after the Davos talks.

Earlier, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation said the PLO had accepted a compromise hammered out overnight by a working committee of negotiators from both sides.

The compromise centred on the size of the autonomous Jericho area, Israeli radio reported. It also said Israel accepted for the first time to have corridors linking Jericho and three holy sites in the Jordan valley.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was studying the proposal in Jerusalem but there was no word on any progress on the key issue of who would control international border crossings.

Israeli officials cautioned any progress here would not cover all disputes holding up the Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza, which was to have started December 13 and be completed four months later.

"We were not supposed to sign anything today," Peres said at the well-guarded luxury hotel where he and 'Arafat were staying and negotiating.

"We are trying to overcome the remaining problems and that's what we are doing," said Peres, who met with 'Arafat late Saturday and had two more sessions with him Sunday in the presence of Musa.

Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid cautioned that even if some of the key details were ironed out here, several other points remained to be resolved.

Among them were the status of Palestinian authority and administrative arrangements in the two areas after the Israeli pullout. "There are many legal questions which we have not even discussed," Sarid said.

Before the talks opened here, both sides had played down chances for significant progress. But the atmosphere appeared warm from the start, and 'Arafat said early on that they hoped to get an accord in Davos or at least "a main platform for an agreement."

Peres was originally scheduled to fly to the United States later Sunday. Asked if he was sticking to the plan, he said only "maybe," leaving open the possibility of another day of talks.

'Arafat was to leave Monday for a trip to Bern at the invitation of the Swiss government and then continue to Geneva to speak to the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Musa: Accord Signing 'Within Two Weeks'

TA3001194294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat announced that progress has been made in the Davos talks. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told our correspondent Gid'on Kouts that the agreement will be signed in Cairo, apparently within two weeks. Our correspondent reports that differences of opinion remain only on the Jericho area issue. On the issue of the border crossings it was agreed that a Palestinian attorney will be permitted to attend the interrogation of suspects detained at the crossings.

The Davos negotiations will continue this evening at a junior level. Peres and 'Arafat will intervene if called to do so. Minister Peres will leave Davos tomorrow morning.

Further on Musa Remarks

NC3001185894 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, Jan 30 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO have cleared away virtually all obstacles to a final agreement on Palestinian autonomy and will sign an accord in 10 days, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said here Sunday [30 January].

"This is really the final stage," said Musa, who took part in two days of intensive talks here between PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

"Next time they meet will be in Cairo to sign the agreement," he said. Asked when this would be, he replied: "Within the next 10 days."

Musa said discussions would continue in this Alpine resort town on the final details of arrangements for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

"It is just a question of finessing some points. The way is clear for an agreement. There is no major issue between them anymore," he said.

Musa said the sticky question of who would man international border control points had been resolved with agreement that Israeli border guards would be deployed, but out of sight of travelers.

'Arafat told the World Economic Forum that an agreement would be signed "very soon" in Cairo. But there was no confirmation from the Israeli side, and Peres said only he was "hopeful" of an agreement.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Possible Talks in Cairo

NC3001183394 London MBC Television in Arabic 1807 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Information Department Head Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in Davos, by MBC Anchorman Antoine 'Awn in London, "few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, discussions continue up to this moment. I believe that these negotiations could reach agreement over some points, but not all of them during this round. Discussions revolve around the issue of the crossings, the Jericho area, and the settlements in Gaza. There is some slow and simple progress in these points. We are now working on finding a joint formula on the things we have managed to agree on. There are still some difficulties. I believe that if all points are not addressed during this round, we could discuss them in Cairo to finalize our agreement.

['Awn] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, on what level will discussions in Cairo take place? On President 'Arafat's level?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I do not think so. Before we reach discussions on the level of President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin, we need to be very close to finalizing the agreement in its broad outlines and even its essential details. Therefore, what we agree on now will form a part of the agreement that we must finalize at a later date.

['Awn] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, thank you.

['Abd-Rabbuh] I thank you.

PLO: Israel Backing Away From Accord

NC3001204894 Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, Jan 30 (AFP)—PLO officials Sunday [30 January] accused Israel of rolling back on agreements in their autonomy negotiations here, dampening optimism for conclusion of an early accord.

Their mood contrasted with the earlier heady prediction of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat that a deal would be signed "very soon" on an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa had also said all major problems had been settled and an accord could be concluded within 10 days as a followup to the broad autonomy agreement signed in September.

But PLO officials said later that the Israelis had gone back on issues they thought were resolved. "Nothing is settled. There is no agreement," said one senior official, who asked not to be named.

They said that 'Arafat would have a third meeting Sunday night with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is due to leave for the United States in the early morning hours of Monday.

The discussions began Saturday with three major points outstanding: manning of international border crossings, the size of the Jericho autonomous area and the security of Jewish settlers.

Musa said the two sides agreed on the deployment of Israeli border guards, who would keep a discreet presence at frontier posts.

But Palestine Liberation Organisation officials said there was no agreement on the size of the Jericho autonomous area and there was no word on the question of security for the settlers.

Israeli Sources: Talks Yield Document

TA3001202494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat are slated to meet in Davos at the present time. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the Israeli-Palestinian formulations committee completed its work and has reached a written document. Israeli sources in Davos say that if the document is approved by Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat an agreement will be reached. Sources in the Palestinian delegation say, on the other hand, that some problems remain and the Israelis are retreating from promises they have made.

The document includes mutually agreed-upon positions as well as the positions of each of the two sides. It was reported that agreement has been reached on the sterile room at the border crossings, as well as on the issues of security roads and zones in the Gaza Strip. On the other hand there is only a basic understanding regarding the size of the Jericho area; a gentleman's agreement has been reached that Israel will increase this size as a goodwill gesture.

The Israeli sources assessed that the agreement will not be initialed tonight.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told our correspondent that if everything is concluded this will constitute a major step toward implementing the agreement of principles. Peres would not commit himself to deadlines and dates for the implementation of the agreement of principles, but said that if an agreement is reached the road will be greatly shortened. He added that every side has remained faithful to its principles: Israel made no concessions on security issues, whereas the Palestinians insisted on issues relating to their self-respect and sentiments.

Peres, 'Arafat Agree on 12 Points

NC3001214194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2052 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Informed diplomatic sources have stated that during their meeting in Davos, Switzerland, the Palestinian delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli delegation led by Shim'on Peres have agreed on 12 points that were sources of disagreement. In a statement to MENA, these sources said that

among the points on which they agreed is allowing a Palestinian police presence at the crossing points between Gaza, Jericho, and Jordan, and the flying of the Palestinian flag at the crossing points that lead to Gaza and Jericho. They also agreed to jointly search goods passing through the crossing points, to establish Palestinian projects by the Dead Sea, on joint Palestinian-Israeli projects, and to set up a crossing in the al-Maghtas area [site where Jesus Christ is believed to have been baptized] and raise the Palestinian flag in the area on certain occasions.

These sources also said that among the 12 points of agreement is that the security belt of Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip should be 36 km long. They also agreed on the presence of joint Palestinian-Israeli security control on roads in Gaza and Jericho and to have joint patrols on the borders. These sources said that defining the size of Jericho's area was left to the Israeli side [words indistinct] a size of 54 kms. The sources expect the two sides to sign the points of agreement they reached in Cairo soon.

'Arafat, Peres To Meet in Cairo 6 Feb

TA3101053394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Cairo on Sunday [6 February]. After a further round of talks in Switzerland last night, Peres said he was optimistic that the differences between the two sides can be bridged before next week's meeting, where it is hoped an agreement on implementing the Gaza-Jericho First plan can be signed. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] [passage omitted] Addressing the economic forum, Foreign Minister Peres had this message for Yasir 'Arafat:

[Peres] May I tell Chairman 'Arafat, who himself personalizes the great suffering of the Palestinian people, that we on our side, on the Israeli side, are decided to enable as much as it depends on us to make the Palestinian story a story of success.

[Weiss] Peres praised 'Arafat's determination to reach agreement and said that although both sides had compromised, Israel had made no concessions on security issues. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Middle East Disarmament Committee Opens Meetings

NC3001162694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—A committee on disarmament stemming from the multilateral talks for peace in the Middle East opened meetings on the expert level in Cairo this afternoon. Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, political adviser to the foreign minister, is leading Egypt's team to the talks.

The committee will discuss various topics concerning the limitation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in the Middle East. The committee, which will continue meetings for six days, will also discuss the possibility of establishing a demilitarized zone in the Middle East as well as look into aspects of regional cooperation.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Envoy Returns From Iraq With Message

NC3001171894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador Mayhub al-Mayhubi, director of the Arab League's Arab Department, returned to Cairo today following a one-week visit to Iraq during which he handed a message from Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

In an arrival statement, al-Mayhubi said that he has a message from the Iraqi foreign minister to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid. Al-Mayhubi added that he will submit a report to the Arab League secretary general on the outcome of his visit to Iraq. Al-Mayhubi said that in his meetings with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Foreign Minister al-Sahhaf, he sensed that they understand the implications of the topics they discussed.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets With U.S. Ambassador in Tunis

LD2901203494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Excerpt] This morning, Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, received Mr. John McCarthy, the ambassador of the United States in Tunis. During the meeting a discussion took place covering the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating process and the deadlock it has reached as a result of the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar has sent an appeal to U.S. President Bill Clinton asking him to intervene, as the agreement was reached under his auspices. Brother President Abu-'Ammar also asked for the intervention of the United States in its capacity as one of the two co-chairmen of the peace talks, in order to overcome the deadlock in the negotiations and attain the accurate and faithful implementation of the provisions that were approved in Washington. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Britain's Burton, Delegation

LD2801195394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received today Sir Michael Burton, assistant undersecretary of state of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the delegation accompanying him.

The peace process, the current negotiations with Israel, and the obstacles facing them which are being put forth by Israel were reviewed during the meeting.

The brother President leader Abu 'Ammar entrusted Sir Michael with an important message for John Major, the British prime minister, on the course of the negotiations and the contribution in overcoming the obstacles facing them. The British contribution to the development operations in the occupied Palestinian territories was reviewed in light of the talks held by the brother president during his latest visit to Britain.

Palestinian-British bilateral relations and the importance of the British and European role in general for the reconstruction of the Palestinian territories were also reviewed. [passage omitted]

Source on 'Uncompromising' Israeli Attitude at Talks

JN3001115894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 29

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] An informed Palestinian source in Amman has stated that security issues have hindered reaching a Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Cairo. The source added that the extent of security measures at the bridges and inspection points and Israel's powers in this regard took 36 hours of fruitless discussions.

The source told AL-DUSTUR that the Israelis insist on putting an observer at the crossings who will have the right to talk to and interrogate those who arrive at and those who leave the crossings prepared for the residents of Gaza and Jericho. This constituted a departure from their previous stands by which they demanded a special crossing which will be subjected to remote electronic surveillance, he said.

The source said: A new condition has been presented over the past two days by the negotiating delegation dispatched by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Israeli condition is that the Israelis should have the right to interrogate directly and independently every suspect and to search him thoroughly without interference from the Palestinian authorities.

The source added: The Israeli delegation was very uncompromising concerning basic issues on the agenda in an attempt to transfer controversial issues to the ['Arafat-Peres] Davos meeting in Switzerland.

Answering a question, the source said: The 12 points of difference have been reduced to four after difficult sessions of negotiations. However, the remaining issues are more important and complicated and we do not know if the Davos meeting will succeed in tackling them.

The source said: Differences over the Jericho area are still continuing but the Israelis have agreed on a compromise giving the Palestinian side special "passageways" to the Dead Sea, al-Nabi Musa, al-Maghtin, and the River Jordan without Israeli interference in order to prevent any connection between Jericho and Jordan. [sentence as published]

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Israeli side proposed "joint investments" in the area located between Jericho and the Dead Sea but the Palestinian position on this proposal has not yet been revealed.

The source said: The Israelis went back on their agreement to have a symbolic Palestinian presence on the entry posts to the West Bank—a policeman or a flag—and presented to us a new stand pertaining to a symbolic Palestinian presence immediately after, and not at, the entrance of the bridge.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa carried positive signals from his Israeli counterpart after a brief visit to Tel Aviv four days ago dealing with basic issues in general and recommending compromise solutions, but these signals disappeared at the negotiating table and the Israeli side appeared to be most uncompromising.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Peace Accord's Faults, Democracy

BR2701145794 Brussels KNACK in Dutch 26 Jan 94 p 54

[Interview with PLO dissident Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi by KNACK; place and date not given: "'Democracy Is a Process'—An Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the Old Man of Gaza and Former Leader of the Palestinian Delegation in Madrid"; first paragraph is KNACK introduction]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi resigned as the leader of the Palestinian negotiating team in Washington when the Oslo agreement came to light. He is probably the most respected man in Gaza and very popular as a dissident within the PLO.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The peace agreement leaves many things to be desired, but its most important fault is that it does not question Israeli claims on the occupied territories. Also, it says nothing about the colonization process in Jerusalem and elsewhere. The Israelis claimed right from the start that this territory was Israeli territory. That is why they called the 1967 war a "war of liberation." That has remained like that: They have never admitted that they were occupiers. And that means that they have claims on the occupied territories. The fact that this agreement does not cover this aspect, and does not ask Israel to give up these claims, is its big fault. They are actively colonizing Jerusalem, despite the agreement which says that Jerusalem will come on the agenda in the final phase of the negotiations.

In other words, Jerusalem has been virtually given up to the Israeli side. Nothing was said about the settlements—there is a silent agreement on two different entities in the occupied territories. Firstly the Israeli entity, which is the "settlers," and secondly the Palestinian entity, with separate administrative and legal systems.

This, too, will lead to major obstacles for us, on our way to our long-term goal, which is our own independent state.

[KNACK] Do you not believe that in a later phase of the process the "settlers" would be sent back anyway?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Now, in the interim period, they could at the very least have given positive signs that the final outcome was still open for discussion. But all that Israel is doing at present is further reducing the credibility of that agreement on the ultimate solution. As I said back in Madrid, the settlements are not compatible with peace. Even James Baker agreed.

[KNACK] You and others have signed a text which was sent to the PLO leadership in Tunis ...

['Abd-al-Shafi] That was a memorandum on democratic practice. After the agreement became fact, we wanted at least to be able to work democratically in managing our own affairs in the areas which will be transferred. We are certainly against 'Arafat remaining the only source of decisions. Therefore, we are asking for a broad basis to the decision making process, we are asking the Executive Committee to work as a collective leadership, we want competence and quality to not be sacrificed to political and personal considerations, things in that line ...

[KNACK] Here in Gaza, the people are worried about a possible dictatorial regime which 'Arafat might bring from Tunis ...

['Abd-al-Shafi] Look, if we are going to manage our own affairs, then it is no more than normal that we ask that type of question. You should not read too much into that. An administration which meets the people's needs must be constructed along democratic lines: accountability, transparency and so on. The people are worried, they want to be certain that this is what it will actually become.

[KNACK] How do you see such a democracy? In the past you refused to lead an opposition party in the name of Palestinian unity.

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is still too early to talk about that. I do know that pluralism is one of the aspects of democracy. If we organize our own society, in the context of freedom and independence and the rest, then pluralism will certainly be a part of it. But now we are thinking about that broad basis for the decision making process and collective leadership. I hope that the elections in July are orderly and produce an elected leadership which itself will work democratically. But real democracy is still a way off. You cannot just give or take democracy, democracy is a process.

[KNACK] Do you think that the peace agreement can nevertheless have positive results?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I hope that we will manage our affairs competently and thus prove that we are capable of doing so. That is very important. That does not mean that we must forget the things which are not covered in this agreement.

[KNACK] Do you believe that the leadership in Tunis can democratize itself?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Democracy can only be achieved in an atmosphere of freedom and independence. What we are thinking about now—a collective leadership and the like—is possible because the Executive Committee is made up of representatives of the different groups. If they introduce a spirit of democracy, then it will become an example of democratic practice. That would be meaningful in the present circumstances, and then the practice of the Palestinian National Council and the Central Committee could be democratized. That would be reflected in the behavior of representatives of the leadership who are appointed for the duration of the interim period. It is a process which creates its own dynamic, but first it must start.

[KNACK] So won't it again be 'Arafat who decides to launch democratization?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, it does not have to be that way. If the group of delegates has the will to push this through, then it can do so.

World Bank Group Grants Aid for Autonomy

AU2801144494 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Paris, Jun 28 (AFP)—The World Bank's consultative group on development of the West Bank and Gaza decided Friday [January 28] to grant budgetary aid on behalf of Palestinian autonomy for this year, the World Bank announced in Paris.

It said the group members would provide "more than 120 million dollars to cover the budget deficit of 158 million dollars" in connection with Palestinian autonomy this year.

The donors—including the European Community, the United States, Japan and some Arab countries—also agreed to the broad outlines of expenditures and receipts contained in the first Palestinian budget, developed by the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development, the announcement said.

The consultative group, grouping 24 countries and five international institutions, was supposed to cover the entire budget deficit. Palestinian delegation head Nabil Kassis told correspondents that "We did not get everything we need to ensure economic viability. But we did not come out so badly."

The donors' meeting was held Thursday and Friday at the World Bank's European headquarters in Paris.

Israel Said Pressing for Extradition of Yasin

LN3002122394 Amman AKHBAR KHABAR in Arabic 29-30 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Paris—AKHBAR KHABAR has learned from a high-level Tunisian source that the Israeli authorities are pressing for the extradition to Israel of Israeli agent 'Adnan

Yasin, a Palestinian national. The source added that Israel might use him as a bargaining chip in the ongoing PLO-Israeli negotiations.

The source went on to say: The Tunisian authorities, which interrogated this agent after unearthing his espionage activities, do not intend to extradite him to Israel. Any decision in this regard is bound to be influenced by the Palestinian leadership's calculations regarding this issue, the source noted.

PFLP, DFLP Deny Intention To Move Headquarters

JN3001093794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 25

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has denied that it is about to move its headquarters from Damascus to Baghdad.

The PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], as well as other factions, moved their headquarters from Beirut to Damascus after the Palestinian resistance evacuated Beirut in September 1982, while Fatah and other factions moved from Beirut to Tunis.

Following his return from Baghdad a few days ago, PFLP Political Bureau member 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh told AL-RA'Y that the PFLP delegation's visit to Baghdad had nothing to do with this subject, and said the PFLP's main office is still in Damascus.

Malluh denied that the opposition factions, including the PFLP, are facing harassment by the Syrian leadership.

He described the press reports published by London newspapers on moving the PFLP headquarters from Damascus to Baghdad as completely untrue, and said the front has the right to be present in the Arab states bordering Palestine.

He said that cooperation and coordination between the Palestinian opposition forces and the Syrian leadership continue, based on their position which calls for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, and their joint position on the dangers of self-rule because it is unfair to the Palestinian national rights.

Meanwhile, a DFLP official said he expects a DFLP delegation to visit the Iraqi capital within 10 days. DFLP Political Bureau member Saji Salamah denied any intention to move the front's headquarters from Damascus to Baghdad, and emphasized that the DFLP delegation's visit to Baghdad had been decided a long time ago.

The visits by the PFLP and DFLP delegations to Baghdad are the first since the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva.

Fatah and other factions have announced that they will move their headquarters to the self-rule region after Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, expected to be completed next April.

Committee To Monitor Human Rights Violations

TA2801130894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jan 94 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] A seminar on democracy and human rights organized by the Center for the Protection of Liberties, identified with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has, for the first time ever, decided to establish a committee in the territories to monitor human rights violations against Palestinians by fellow Palestinians.

Presenting the idea, Dr. Mahmad Jadallah, one of the most prominent DFLP activists, said that in view of the feared human rights violations against Palestinians not only by Israel but also by the Palestinian national government that will be established in the territories, "someone must try to stop irregularities and violations of human rights by Palestinians, even if this is only done by words."

The seminar, held yesterday at the al-Watani Hotel in East Jerusalem, dealt with issues on the current agenda of Palestinian society involving its fears with regard to the future. Among other things, the participants discussed relations between the individual and the Palestinian government that will be established in the territories, the status and role of human rights watch organizations in relation to that government, the status of Palestinian women, and the proposed constitution for the Palestinian government.

In the discussions, sharp criticism was leveled at the PLO leadership for signing the Oslo agreement; for its lack of awareness of the need to teach democratic values in schools and other institutions; and for other negative phenomena in the territories, such as the murder of innocent people. [passage omitted]

Factions Split Over Abu-Nidal Bid To Join Alliance

JN3001085394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jan 94 p 2

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Abu-Nidal group has applied to join a Palestinian alliance opposed to the moderate strategies of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and the factions in the Damascus-based coalition appeared to be split over the issue, informed sources said Saturday [29 January].

The Abu-Nidal [group], formally calling itself Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), renewed its bid to join the alliance after the coalition named a 20-member leadership council on Jan. 19, the sources said. An earlier FRC bid to join the alliance, when it was first created as a loose umbrella in September 1992, was turned down.

According to the sources, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) of Nayif Hawatimah oppose any membership for the Abu-Nidal group in the

alliance. It is citing the numerous attacks on PLO officials claimed or attributed to the Abu-Nidal group and objecting its entry into the alliance, they said.

"Abu-Nidal's hands are stained with Palestinian blood, and he has no place in a Palestinian nationalist group," according to a senior DFLP official.

The DFLP also argues that the presence of the FRC in the alliance would be insignificant in view of the small size of the group. It is estimated that the Abu-Nidal group has less than 200 members scattered around in the Arab World, but mainly in Lebanon.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, believes tht the FRC should be given a chance to enter the coalition if it publicly accepts the principles of the alliance and pledges to abide by them, according to the sources.

Hamas, which claims to be the largest faction in the 10-group alliance, also believes that any decision on the FRC bid for membership should be decided by the leadership council, which is scheduled to meet in early February in Damascus to elect a president, they said.

Other leading groups in the alliance include the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP); dissident wings of Fatah, the main-stream group of Mr. 'Arafat; the Communist Party and the Palestine Liberation Front are also members in addition to Lebanon-based factions such as Islamic Jihad-Palestine and Hizballah- Palestine. Their views on the FRC bid were not known immediately.

The leadership council is made up of two members each from the 10 groups.

Abu-Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna, is one of the most wanted men in the world. His group has been blamed for a series of violent attacks in the Middle East and Europe, including the 1986 attacks at Rome and Vienna airports which killed more than 20 people.

Abu-Nidal was expelled from Syria in the late 80s. His group was believed to have moved to Libya and stayed there for a few years before the Tripoli government launched a crackdown on the group in 1990-91.

Several leading activists of the group were reported to have been killed in a bitter power struggle while it was based in Libya.

Fatah Hawks Claim Grenade Incident

TA3001192294 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The Fatah Hawks have carried out the threats made last week by resuming their terrorist activity. In a videocassette disseminated to the media today they claim responsibility for throwing the grenade which injured three Israeli soldiers yesterday. [passage omitted]

Fatah Wins Gaza Engineers' Association Elections

TA2901150294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Fatah has narrowly won the elections to the Gaza Strip Engineers Association, which will now be headed by a Fatah representative, with a deputy from the Islamic list. The executive committee will be run by a Fatah majority, but next year the Islamic list will have a majority. This arrangement was dictated by the need to rotate one seat.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that since the Islamic movements have traditionally held a majority in the Engineers Association, the Gaza Strip Fatah chapter views the election results as a victory.

Poll: Support for Fatah in Territories Falling

TA3001171394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jan 94 p A4

[Report by correspondent in the territories Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Palestinian public support for Fatah, the largest and dominant organization in the PLO, is falling, while support for "independents," who prefer to avoid direct identification with the organizations supporting the Israel-PLO agreement or those opposing it, is steadily increasing. This transpires from a public opinion poll conducted on 16 January by the Nabulus-based Palestinian Research Center. The poll included 1,607 interviewees from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This research center started to conduct monthly polls after the signing of the agreement in order to assess the public mood among the Palestinian population and its possible voting patterns in the framework of democratic elections.

According to the agreement of principles, the elections for the autonomy council are slated to be held in July 1994 and the research center intends to continue conducting the polls until elections are held. Recently it was proposed that municipal elections be held in order to gauge the mood of the Palestinian voters in the territories. It has also been reported that the PLO leadership is even considering delaying the elections for the autonomy council.

According to the poll, support for Fatah has declined from approximately 42 percent in December to 35 percent in January. During this period support for the opposition organizations has not increased but remained stable. Support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] stands at 14.7 percent, whereas support for the Popular Front is 8.4 percent. At the same time the poll indicates that the coalition of the agreement's supporters made up of Fatah, FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Federation], and the Palestinian People's Party, is still stronger than the rejectionist coalition of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front, and the Democratic Front. The agreement's supporters garnered approximately 39 percent, whereas the opposition accrued some 29 percent. The findings indicate that the contribution of FIDA and the People's Party to the supporters' camp is marginal and amounts to only a few percent.

The researchers assess that the voices lost to Fatah went to those supporting the "independents," especially the "national independents." According to the poll, support for the "independents" has gone up to 32 percent. The conductors of the poll estimate that some Fatah supporters preferred to define themselves as "national independents" or to abstain. They also assessed that some other independents are leaning toward the Muslim organizations or other organizations which have not defined their positions.

The poll shows that the lowest support for Fatah is to be found in Hebron, where only 24.6 percent support this organization. Had elections been carried out in Hebron on the day of the poll, the opposition organizations would have easily defeated the agreement's supporters. The greatest support for Fatah is to be found in Nabulus and Jericho (42.2 percent in both areas). The greatest support for the "independents" is to be found in East Jerusalem: 46.2 percent.

The researchers estimate that several factors contributed to the drop in support for Fatah. The main factors are the frustration and despair felt by the Palestinian population in view of the slow progress made in the negotiations; the absence of practical moves for implementing the agreement; the ongoing violence in the territories, for example, the killing of the four Hamas activists in Hebron two days prior to the poll; and the proliferation of arms in the Gaza Strip. The inter-Fatah arguments over appointments and democratic reforms also made a bad impression on the public. The researchers believe that all these factors have increased the Palestinian public's doubts over Israel's intentions and the ability of the Palestinian delegation to convince Israel to accept the Palestinian positions.

Palestinian Apology Over Gulf Crisis Stand Rejected

JN2801200894 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Did our people back the wrong side in the major and historic Mother of Battles? Are a certain people at fault if they take their own side, trench, and active weapons? Our people from all walks of life and across the political spectrum took a worthy stand throughout the Mother of Battles. Our people tilted toward truth and that continues to be the case. They continue to be in truth's fighting trenches, in the battalions of the camp of justice and the faithful led by the mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn.

Anyone who wants to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people must utter only that which truly represents their position and militant march on the road of freedom and the Arab character of the homeland.

The Saudi Arabian regime—mired in treason, ignominy, and subordination, and, having leased Arab territory and tradition in the Arabian Peninsula to invaders—is not a custodian of our people. Nor is it the right party to issue certificates of good conduct and inflict punishment.

Anyone who will apologize for our people's distinguished stand during the Mother of battles and their taking Iraq's side only speaks for his own ignominiousness. Such a person has no right to claim he is speaking in the name of or representing our people. Our militant people, who were unanimous in their support for Iraq in the Mother of Battles, knew then and are still convinced that the position they took was the right one. Our people will take the same position and sit in the same trench in all the Arab nation's battles and honorable pages of glory. All Saudi Arabia's money that has been withheld from our people, revolutionaries, and our valiant intifadah, and diverted to foot the bills of aggression on the Arab nation, cannot buy the consciences of the Palestinian people and their decisive, historic stands. This is because our people are too good to be bribed with ill-gotten money that has hurt and bankrolled aggression on the Arab nation. Our people will not stand for an apology. Our people will never apologize for taking their own side and trench and honorable history.

Hamas Assumes Responsibility for Shooting Attack

TA3001110694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has assumed responsibility for this morning's shooting attack on a resident of the 'Atzmona settlement in the Qatif Bloc. The man was ambushed and sustained moderate hand and head injuries.

Algeria

Higher Security Council Appoints Zeroual President

LD3001114494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The Higher Security Council, meeting under the chairmanship of Ali Kafi, has appointed Liamine Zeroual as head of state and minister of national defense.

The new president is to run the transitional period for three years following his inauguration tomorrow.

AFP Profiles President's History

NC3001122194 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 30 Jan 94

[All names as received]

[Text] Algiers, Jan 30 (AFP)—General Liamine Zeroual, the career soldier co-opted Sunday by the High Security Council (HCS) to lead Algeria through three years of transition, is a veteran of the 1954-62 war of independence from France.

Now 53, the man with silver hair and a pepper-and-salt moustache emerged from three years in the wilderness last year to succeed Major-General Khaled Nezzar as defence minister.

Nezzar was widely considered the strongman of the five-man presidential college that has ruled since president Chadli Bendjedid resigned on January 11, 1992, shortly before the cancellation of the second round of a general election that the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was set to win.

Zeroual has kept his forays into the public debate on the country's political future to a minimum.

But in two memorable statements on October 24 and January 16, he warned that while the army remained neutral, it would not stand by passively in the face of dangerous developments that were threatening the fate of the nation.

His unscheduled televised broadcast on January 16, a vain attempt to galvanise the key political players into attending this week's abortive national conference, had the stamp of a presidential hopeful.

It had been hoped the conference could choose a new president, but in the absence of comprehensive participation, the task fell to the HCS.

In that televised speech, Zeroual called in firm and solemn tones for a "new national political system to enshrine true democracy, to guarantee all individual and collective freedoms and to put an end to political, economic, cultural and ideological monopolies."

He also called for a "complete break from the old style and methods of management."

Zeroual's army colleagues portray him as reserved and a man of principle. He resigned as commander of land forces and deputy chief-of-staff and quit the army in 1989 after clashing with Bendjedid about his plans for a military shake-up.

He was then named ambassador to Romania, but resigned after less than a year to get away from politics and spend time in his hometown.

After the assassination of caretaker president Mohammed Boudiaf on July 29, 1992, there were persistent rumours that he would be appointed interior minister or a kind of secretary-general of the five-man presidency.

But he got neither job, and it was much to the surprise of most people that he was appointed defence minister on July 3 last year.

His appointment was seen as the army's way of inciting the politicians to reform the management of the civil service.

Zeroual, who advocates a professional army, has in his long career as a serving officer commanded the Tamanrasset military region in the extreme south of Algeria in 1982, Bechar on the Moroccan border in 1984 and Constantine in eastern Algeria in 1987.

He has also commanded two of the army's training schools, including the Cherchel Academy, the nursery for the officer elite.

Zeroual Addresses Nation 31 Jan

LD3101125394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1042 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Address to the nation by President Liamine Zeroual at his swearing-in ceremony—live relay]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency, the chairman [of the Higher State Council]; members of the Higher State Council; ladies and gentlemen: It is my duty at this historic moment solemnly to salute the souls of all our righteous sons who paid for the freedom and independence of Algeria and the unity and sovereignty of our nation with their lives.

I stand before you at a time when the homeland is going through a decisive turning point which makes it the duty of every Algerian citizen, male or female, to shoulder his responsibility and devote all of his forces in order to preserve the supreme interest of the homeland and secure the continuity of the Algerian state and the independence of its decision in faithfulness to the principles of the 1 November Revolution.

Not long ago my brothers called on me, from the highest authority in the country, to assume the post of minister of national defense. I responded to the call of duty out of my feelings about the seriousness of the situation and put all of my energy into the service of the military establishment, not striving for posts and protocol, but out of my belief that the homeland is above all other considerations, just as the National People's Army supported and backed—and is still supporting and backing—all efforts to take the country

out of its multi-sided crisis by way of serious dialogue. Therefore, I supported my brothers' efforts to make the national conference successful in order to obtain a national consensus within the framework of the document for organizing the transitional phase in accordance with the spirit of the constitution. This is so that it will be a true expression of the tendencies of various sections of society, in order to guarantee a wide popular mobilization, and in order to end the scattering of the nation and to recruit all the sons of the Algerian people, regardless of their political affiliations, for the sake of building a new national order in which the people are allowed to express their choices with total freedom and on correct bases remote from any pressure or falsification, without infringing the homeland's supreme interest and the stability of the state and its establishments.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Higher State Council, gentlemen, ladies: My appointment as head of state by the Higher Security Council comes after all means have been exhausted [to solve the crisis] and in response to the requests from large sections of our society who want security, stability, and tranquility. I placed myself at the service of the supreme interests of the homeland and the nation, with all modesty and sincerity, after I saw the deep fragmentation occurring on the political scene, in order to unite the sons of Algeria. I have never aspired at any time to acquire this lofty task and heavy responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Higher State Council: Thanks to your sincere spirit of responsibility and nationalism, you have been able to manage the affairs of the country; you have been eager to follow the constitution and preserve the state institutions. You have created the atmosphere for dialogue and consultation that enabled us to entrench the principle of rotation in power. By doing this you have provided the proof of your sincerity and your zeal in the service of the state and the homeland within the framework of the principles of the November revolution, and you have fulfilled the pledge you made in the 14 January 1992 declaration.

The coming generations will remember and history will record this exemplary stand. In my turn I offer you my thanks for what you have done for the people and the homeland. May God render us successful and guide our steps. Peace and blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

Reaction to Presidential Appointment Noted

FIS Official Comments

LD3001205994 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Athens, Jan. 30, IRNA—The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) Sunday dismissed the appointment of the defence minister as the new head of the Algerian regime as "insignificant," and said days of the military-backed regime were "numbered."

Algeria's High State Council Sunday named General Liamine Zeroual, defence minister for the past six months, as head the new regime after the collapse of last week's national conference.

"For us the issue is of no importance. The regime has lost its last card after the failure of the national conference. The regime is now politically bankrupt," a spokesman for FIS, Yousuf, told IRNA by phone from Germany.

The official FIS spokesman in Europe Rabeh Kabir, who lives in exile in Germany, was not available for immediate comments on the naming of General Zeroual.

He will replace the High State Council which was set up by the military two years ago after the cancellation of elections in the wake of a landslide victory for FIS.

The appointment of General Zeroul implies that the army wants to continue its role as the main decision maker in Algeria.

In a separate statement, faxed to IRNA sunday, FIS blamed the regime for the killing of a leader of the Islamic Hamas [Islamic Society Movement] in Algeria professor Mohammad Bouslimani.

"The world should know that this regime has lost all justification for its existence and its days are numbered. Hence it took recourse to assassinating professor Mohammad Bouslimani as a ring in the shameless chain aimed at making Islamists hit each other," said the Arabic statement Nr. 10.

It said "FIS strongly condemns and denounces this assassination and all of its kind," and added that there is no solution to the crisis except by "responding to the demand of the people to choose its rulers and to the right to live under the shade of an Islamic state."

Last Tuesday's national conference held near Algiers was seen as a last ditch move by the regime to preserve its illegal rule. Major political parties boycotted it and the 2-day meeting ended in failure when former foreign minister Abdel-Aziz Bouteflika refused the post for the presidency.

The Islamists in Algeria are struggling to create an Islamic state after they were robbed of certain election victory by the army in January 1992.

The regime banned FIS and imprisoned thousands of Islamists. Nearly 2,000 Islamists, security personnel and other citizens have been killed in the violence.

Radio Analyzes Appointment

LD3001145594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] After its meeting today at the presidency of the republic, the Higher Security Council appointed Lamine Zeroual as head of state, and he will keep his post as national defense minister. Zeroual will be sworn-in tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Zeroual, the president-designate and national defense minister will assume several tasks in his capacity as head of state. These tasks have been fixed by Article 13 of the

document of the national consensus platform [recently reached at the national conference in Algiers]. Nasira Mennan reports:

[Mennan] The head of state has several authorities and prerogatives: He is the commander-in-chief of all the Armed Forces of the republic; he is in charge of national defense; he decides and guides the foreign policy of the nation; he presides over the Council of Ministers, appoints and puts an end to the job of the prime minister, makes appointments in the civil and military state functions, and signs presidential decrees. He has the right to pardon, to reduce, or replace sentences. He may consult the people through referendum on any issue of national interest. He also appoints the ambassadors extraordinary and envoys abroad. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Zeroual, the head of state and minister of national defense, has an enormous responsibility, particularly leading the country to safe shores. Chaabane Bounakel reports:

[Bounakel] The appointment of Zeroual as head of state and minister of defense is considered an important political event and a turning point in national political life. The man is known for his honesty and sincerity, and he has secured the respect of the public and the political class with its various tendencies.

Zeroual is assuming a heavy task, and he should receive the understanding, support and backing from all social and political partners. This is a national matter that binds all and cannot bear a retreat.

Just as his withdrawal from the scene was a rejection of blessing a weak political system after the eruption of the October [1988] events, and the bad management of the economy, the abandonment by the state of its social role, the deviation of some administrative organs, the domination of a narrow partisan view amid the public, the return of the man at this precise moment and after the convening of the national consensus conference, all the more since he is both head of state and defense minister, his return at this moment is in itself considered the main guarantee for the national public in the first place, second for political and social partners, and third for the regional and international public.

For Algeria in a national consensus, which has not been easy to attain, it has indeed found its way toward the transcending of the trial and to move assuredly from the stage of the single political party system to a new national system that entrenches genuine democracy. The matter is not easy: Just as the military establishment has provided categorical proof and evidence of its goodwill not to spare any effort to get out of the crisis, the political classes, particularly those deeply nationalist and determined to meet the challenges, transcend the crisis and give momentum to the wheel of the real change the people want, these classes should drop any worn out positions and practices.

This double appointment is not at all a review of the withdrawal of the national people's army from the political army as much as it is a respect for the will of the people to get out of the crisis, and a way of avoiding the Army becoming a tool in the framework of the political conflicts of any side. The military establishment is a national school that forms tough men, and these men will assuredly not retreat from answering the call of the homeland.

Political Parties Comment

LD3001201994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Following the appointment of Mr. Liamine Zeroual, a number of parties, associations, and national organizations have expressed their satisfaction at and support for such an appointment; they have considered as a suitable choice at this difficult period.

Among those parties and associations we can cite the Social and Liberal Party, the Arab Islamic Rally, Ettahadi, the National Organization of the Sons of War Veterans, the National Coordination Bureau of the Sons of Martyrs, the National League of the Algerian Students, the Algerian Society of Information and Communications, the National Union of the Algerian Students, the Algerian Women Organization for Solidarity with the Rural Family, the National Society for the Economic and Social development, the National Confederation of the Algerian Employers, and the FLN Youth Association.

The above listed parties and organizations believe Liamine Zeroual is the suitable person for the current period and a factor for bolstering national concord and surmounting the crisis facing the country.

Zeroual Meets Malek, Rejects Resignation Offer

LD3101132094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] At noon today at the presidency President Liamine Zeroual received Mr. Redha Malek, who offered him the resignation of his government. President Liamine Zeroual has renewed his trust in Mr. Redha Malek and asked him to continue as head of the government. Mr. Redha Malek accepted the offer and thanked the head of state for his trust in him.

FIS Spokesman Assesses National Dialogue Conference

JN2801201794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Interview with Rabeh Kebir, official spokesman of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, by Salim Badawi; from "The Event" program ; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Badawi] The national dialogue conference was held on time but its success was not certain. Its failure was expected by major Algerian parties and forces, especially the FIS, whose spokesman abroad, Rabeh Kebir, says that since the dialogue has failed, a serious, deep-rooted solution must be sought. This should begin by releasing all detainees and entering serious negotiations with the FIS

preparatory to handing over power to the real representative of the Algerian people. Here is Rabeh Kebir:

[Kebir] The failure of the dialogue committee was expected. We were not surprised. Everybody knows the FIS won the elections, in addition to other two parties, the National Liberation Front and the Socialist Forces Party. But since that time, the putschists have refused to deal seriously with the winning parties. They tried to create a counter-front against the FIS. They did not succeed. Then they resorted to lies, because before and after the dialogue conference there were rumors that the FIS would participate. The aim was clearly to confuse the people and pressure the parties.

Now that the dialogue has failed, and its failure was expected, a deep-rooted, serious solution must be sought. I believe those in power now cannot go on because the country's resources are wasted everyday. Their own interests are threatened in Algeria. They cannot do what they want. I believe that the wise ones should seek a serious solution. This begins by releasing all detainees and entering serious negotiations with the FIS preparatory to handing over power to the real representative of the Algerian people.

[Badawi] Do you consider the failure of the national dialogue conference to be a victory for the FIS?

[Kebir] Absolutely. Because the FIS is working in a clear way and on correct principles, it is moving from one victory to another despite the fact that it sometimes seems to fall into troubles, that it has been exposed to injustice. But, I believe this is only logical in the lives of great movements that demand deep-rooted changes. [passage omitted]

[Badawi] Concerning the future, you spoke of the need for deep-rooted changes. How do you view these changes and are you prepared to share power, first on the legislative level, with the other political parties and sides in Algeria preparatory to crystallizing a future picture of the government?

[Kebir] The demands of the FIS have been clear from the beginning. It was expressed in its charters and in its election campaign. It wants to build an Islamic state based on Islamic principles as stipulated in the November statement. This is not an invention. This is a demand of the early martyrs. Since this is the demand of the martyrs and mujahdin in November, this means that those who are present in the political arena... [pauses] it is supposed to be the demand of everyone. By God, we will work with those who accept this demand, the demand of establishing an Algerian state within the framework of Islamic principles.

[Badawi] Otherwise?

[Kebir] By God, our demands are clear. We cannot concede this principle.

[Badawi] Does this mean that there is no place for the other parties that do not call for establishing an Islamic state in Algeria?

[Kebir] I do not say this. The issue of the establishment of parties or our (?nonacceptance) is connected with the Algerian people. The election explained this. We certainly welcome the parties that were elected by the people. But those who lead the country, as is known in all world countries, are the party that gets the majority. The other parties may participate in power with ministerial portfolios and other things. This is logical but always within the planning of the majority party. [passage omitted]

Secretary of Rally for Culture Party Killed

NC3101121994 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Algiers, Jan 31 (AFP)—Unidentified killers murdered the national secretary of Algeria's Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), Rachid Tigziri, early Monday outside his home in an eastern suburb of Algiers, family sources said.

A cultural association representing Algeria's original Berber inhabitants, from whom the RCD draws its support, blamed the "odious crime" on "terrorists" in a statement.

Tigziri was the first national official of a political party to be murdered since armed Islamic fundamentalists began waging a guerrilla war against the state two years ago. Numerous intellectuals have been assassinated as part of a campaign of fear.

The attackers slit Tigziri's throat as he was heading for his car outside the building in Bach Djarah, one of the strongholds of Islamic fundamentalism in the region around the capital.

Formerly a senior civil servant at the Ministry of Labour, Tigziri had been economics spokesman for the RCD, led by Said Sadi. Tigziri, 42, was married and had no children.

"Algeria has again lost one of its finest sons, an activist for all the democratic causes," the Berber cultural grouping Si Muhand U Mhend said in its statement, adding that the association would "remain mobilised" and that "republican Algeria will win."

Tens of thousands of Berber people have held demonstrations in towns in the Kabylie region this month to protest against the Muslim extremist violence as well as what they presented as repression of their culture by the authorities.

Body of Reform, Guidance Association Leader Found

LD2801165194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] It was officially confirmed today that the Cheikh preacher Mohamed Bouslimani, chairman of the Reform and Guidance association, has been assassinated. This was mentioned in a statement signed by the deputy chairman of the Reform and Guidance Association, and the radio received a copy of the statement.

The statement points out that a at around 1330 today, a delegation from the family of the assassinated Cheikh identified the body while accompanied by members of the bureau of the association at the military hospital of Ain Naadja.

It is worth recalling that Cheikh Bouslimani, may God have mercy on him, was kidnapped from his home in Blida by four armed men two months ago.

Two 'Islamic Militants' Arrested

NC3001073394 Paris AFP in English 0021 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Names as received]

[Text] Algiers, Jan 30 (AFP)—Algerian police have arrested two Islamic militants in connection with the kidnap and murder of Mohammed Bouslimani, the president of the charity Al-Islah wa al-Irshad.

Bouslimani's body was found a week ago in El Affroun near Blida two months after his abduction at the end of November.

A police statement said agronomist Guitoun Nasser and imam Rashid Zerani, 26, an inspector in Algeria's fraud squad, had kidnapped the charity leader on the orders of Djaafar al-Afghani leader of the Islamic Armed Group (GIA).

It said Al-Afghani had ordered the killing after a series of discussions with Bouslimani.

FIS Communique: 117 Killed From 9 to 25 Jan

LD2801162194 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The representatives of the [Algerian] Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in exile have issued a communique claiming that, between 9 and 25 January, the Islamists [in Algeria] have killed 117 people, both civilians and soldiers. The FIS communique added that the movement was not claiming responsibility for these killings, but that it was simply publishing the figures to inform the public.

Government To Meet Debt Repayments 'As Scheduled'

LD3001175394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] A source close to the government premiership today said that Algeria would continue the policy of meeting the payments for servicing its debts as scheduled, despite the difficult circumstances it was experiencing. The source said that while waiting for the signing of an agreement that would come as a result of the negotiations with the IMF, Algeria would continue its efforts to respect its foreign commitments.

Suspension Reports Denied

LD3101093794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Some Western newspapers, primary among which is the French LE MONDE, have disseminated a report that Algeria has suspended payment on external debt servicing. This report was denied yesterday by sources close to the government. The sources said that Algeria has been continuing to service its foreign debt. Nasira Bouzid reports:

[Bouzid] Algeria continues payment of its external debts by the required time. Sources close to the prime minister's office have told APS that Algeria has paid in succession $900 million and $600 million as debt principal and services, for the payments due in December last and this month, January, alone. Likewise, in December 1992 and January 1993, Algeria paid in succession $911 million and $694 million.

The same sources said that the reorganization of debt management procedures in order to improve them had led to a purely administrative delay. The prime minister's office stressed that Algeria continues to make all efforts to preserve its policy of respect for foreign commitments. The same sources thereby denied the reports carried by some Western newspapers, especially LE MONDE, which had a headline on its front page yesterday saying: Algeria Suspends Payment of its External Debt. The government sources described these reports as groundless.

Egypt

'Text' of Economic Agreement With PLO

NC2801181794 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Jan 94 p 6

[Report by 'A'ishah 'Abd-al-Ghaffar]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi yesterday signed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between Egypt and the PLO. Cooperation in the fields of trade, industry, agriculture, investment, tourism, services, technology, health, and education will be promoted.

The agreement also encourages and bolsters cooperation between Palestinian and Egyptian private sectors, including the establishment of joint firms, and calls for coordination in building the infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza.

The following is the text of the agreement:

I. Economic Cooperation

1. The two sides shall work to promote economic cooperation in the various fields for their common interests and mutual benefit. This includes trade, industry, agriculture, investment, tourism, services, technical cooperation, health, education, and others.

2. The two sides shall encourage and boost cooperation between the Egyptian and Palestinian private sectors in all areas, including the establishment of joint companies.

3. The two sides shall cooperate and coordinate their efforts in building the infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza, especially projects with regional dimensions, such as power stations, roads, transportation, communications, and water desalination.

4. Egyptian companies, institutions, and products will be given the preferential treatment that the Palestinian side may give to any other party and there shall be reciprocal treatment.

5. The national institutions of the two sides shall cooperate to support development plans, programs, and projects in the West Bank and Gaza. They shall exchange relevant information to make the best of their expertise and capabilities.

6. The two sides shall cooperate in conduc?ing the feasibility study for the establishment of a free zone in Rafah for the purposes of trade, industry, investment, and others.

II. Trade

1. The two sides shall work to encourage exchange of their national products. Transactions shall be settled in transferable free currency within the framework of the valid rules and reg?lations of both sides. National products exchanged within the fra?ework of this agreement shall be considered of national origin when bearing certificates of origin issued by a competent and accredited official quarter. Industrial products shall not be considered of national origin unless the local production cost, including that of the raw material and the labor force, is no less than 40 percent of the total production cost.

The two parties shall seek to grant each other's products preferential benefits in accordance with the rules and procedures applicable by each party. They shall participate in international and regional fairs and exhibitions organized by each side and facilitate the passage of transit goods for reexport via their territories, in accordance with the rules and procedures applicable to each side.

The two parties shall encourage the cooperation and the exchang? of visits by businessmen, chambers of commerce and industry, and other similar institutions of each party.

2. A joint trade committee, emanating from the Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, will be set up and headed by the economy and foreign trade minister of each party, his equivalent, or a representative of his with the purpose of following up the implementation of the trade obligations concluded under this agreement and submitting the necessary recommendations and proposals. The committee will meet annually or at the invitation of either party.

III. Investment

1. To encourage and protect investments and the flow of capital between the two parties and to support and develop them.

IV. Financial Matters

1. To facilitate the establishment of branches of Egyptian financial institutions and banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to encourage trade and investment between the two parties.

2. To exchange information between the two parties in monetary, banking, and tax fields.

V. Tourism

1. To cooperate in the fields of tourism and encourage the establishment of joint tourist enterprises.

VI. Regional Cooperation

1. Cooperation and coordination between the two parties within the framework of the multilateral peace talks and the committees emanating from the Washington conference to consolidate peace in the Middle East in the interest of the two parties as well as pan-Arab interests.

2. Prior and constant consultations between the two sides, particularly with respect to projects with regional dimensions or in any arrangements to be made with other parties that may affect the interests of the other party.

VII. Other Fields:

1. Cooperation in the fields of health, education, manpower development, technical cooperation, and others.

VIII

1. The two parties have agreed to set up a joint committee for economic and technical cooperation to be headed by the foreign minister of each party, his equivalent, or a representative of his to agree on the frameworks and mechanisms of cooperation in the aforesaid fields and follow up the implementation of this agreement.

2. This agreement shall be valid for five years to be renewed automatically. Either party may terminate the agreement after giving notice to the other party of its desire to do so and the annulment shall go into effect six months from the date of the notice. Any outstanding obligations by each party shall be settled within the six-month period or by whatever date agreed on by the two parties.

Paper Says Israel Avoiding Agreement Deadlines

NC3101082894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements are designed to avoid meeting the April deadline to implement the Gaza-Jericho Agreement just as he avoided beginning the withdrawal on 13 December.

The paper adds: Israel knows how to sell the illusions of peace to obtain more arms deals and restore its ties with

many countries. The U.S. pressure to end the Arab boycott of Israel before the latter takes any concrete step proves this.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that Israel has a long experience in prevarication and maneuvers, the most recent of which was the farce over a referendum on withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This was a move intended to confront the results of the Geneva summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes: Washington apparently approves of this game as demonstrated by a remark made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that his country, although a full partner to the process, will not pressure Syria or Israel in the peace negotiations and will not mediate unless requested to by both parties.

Daily Calls for Action in Response to Clinton Remarks

NC3001080894 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 22 Jan 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Statement That Raises Hope"]

[Text] Certainly we must not ignore the statement that U.S. President Bill Clinton made to the American television network CNN yesterday, which was reported by all international news agencies. The importance of this statement is due to two factors: First, it comes a few days after the Geneva summit with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and, second, it comes a few days before the resumption of the bilateral negotiations in Washing?on after a suspension of about four months.

What did President Clinton say? He declared that he will do all he can to establish an honorable, permanent, and acceptable peace in the Middle East. He said that peace is the outstanding priority of U.S. policy in the region. Evaluating the Geneva summit, President Clinton said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was sincere when he emphasized to him Syria's concern to reach peace, which he described as very important to Syria and to all Arab peoples. Clinton said that he wants to see a peace agreement between the Arab countries and Israel. He noted that his meeting with President al-Asad in Geneva was serious and great.

Regarding Lebanon, President Clinton said that the talks with President al-Asad in Geneva dealt with implementing the al-Ta'if agreement and that they agreed that Lebanon should return to being an independent and sovereign state and that all foreign forces should withdraw.

These positive statements prompt us to rise to our feet in respect for U.S. President Bill Clinton and to call on him at the same time to translate them into action on all the Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian negotiating tracks. Fortunately, the Washington bilateral negotiations will be resumed on Monday on all tracks. We have a right to be optimistic and to expect great results from these negotiations.

The United States provides Israel with everything from bread to missiles. As we know, there are strategic cooperation agreements between them that allow Israel, as happened recently, to transfer advanced U.S. technology. Since the Arab party's intentions have been proven serious to the United States as President Clinton himself noted, it remains for him to signal to Israel that withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights have become a requisite that must be fulfilled sooner rather than later.

Israel is maneuvering on all negotiating tracks and instead of proceeding seriously and directly toward peace, we find that it is trying to incite Arabs against each other. First Israel focuses on the Syrian track so that one thinks that a solution is imminent. Israel then abruptly leaves Syria and focuses on the Palestinians so that everyone thinks that a solution is at hand. It then leaves the Palestinians and returns to the Syrians. It continues this approach in an attempt to generate concern and division among the Arabs, pretending that this is the nature of negotiations.

We Arabs have all become convinced of America's role as a full partner in the peace process. We are all convinced that the role of a full partner cannot only be played through statements. This role must be exercised practically by advising Israel that its security cannot be achieved by capturing the land of others but by striking a balance in the interests of all parties and living together within a framework of good neighborliness and cooperation in all areas. President Clinton's statement raises our hopes and affirms that peace is making progress despite Israel's maneuvers. It remains to translate these statements into action.

Daily Assesses Clinton Remarks

NC2901195394 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Jan 94 p 9

[Editorial: "An American Priority"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has declared that establishing peace in the Middle East is one of the highest priorities of U.S. policy. He promised to exert everything in his power to establish an honorable and permanent peace that is acceptable to all parties.

President Clinton said in the interview he gave to CNN that his meeting in Geneva with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was great and serious. He added that he is convinced that the Syrian president is honest when confirming Syria's interest in establishing peace and is committed to finding an agreement for a settlement with Israel on the basis of peace prevailing on both the Lebanese and Jordanian fronts, in addition to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The statements by the U.S. President came after he met twice with Jordanian monarch King Husayn and before a series of meetings that were held in Oslo between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The preparatory meetings start in Washington today between the Arab delegations taking part in the bilateral peace talks with Israel in preparation for resuming these negotiations at the beginning of the next month, after they have been stopped and stalled for a long time.

Since the United States gives priority to peace efforts in the Middle East, we hope that the U.S. capital will soon witness concurrent agreements between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan respectively along the lines of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which will bring about a historic reconciliation and an honorable and permanent peace through which cooperation and good neighborliness can replace bloodshed and fighting.

'Sources' Note U.S. Cooperation Plan for Region

NC2901150894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jan 94 p 7

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Political sources have told AL-SHA'B that during his tour of the region U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown has discussed a plan for cooperation among Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. Brown met with President Husni Mubarak Thursday to discuss the details of the U.S. economic plan, which includes the following points:

1. Establishing free trade between Israel and the three Arab countries through trade agreements between governments. The agreements will involve Israeli commodities and products that can be exported to the three Arab markets, and commodities and products of the three Arab countries that can be exported to Israel.

2. Establishing banking cooperation between the three Arab countries and Israel to finance a number of common commercial, agricultural, and industrial projects.

3. Abolishing restrictions imposed on the private sectors in the three Arab countries concerning trade and establishment of joint ventures, whether in Israel or in the Arab countries.

4. Setting up a four-way committee, with the possibility of Palestinians joining it, to study duties on commodities exchanged among the four countries.

The U.S. plan stresses the need to begin steps for economic cooperation in March or April. It says the agreements will support the bases of the ongoing peace process. Brown said during his talks with President Mubarak that U.S. President Bill Clinton is interested in seeing the plan implemented.

Brotherhood Official on Islam 'Awakening,' 'Surging'

NC2901151294 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jan 94 p 5

[Article by Mustafa Mashhur, deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood: "The Bats Wouldn't Survive in this Light"]

[Text] The world today is witnessing a growing Islamic awakening fashioned by God and carried out by Islamic movements all over the world. This Islamic awakening is growing and surging, thanks to our Lord and His care, despite the attempts of the enemies of Islam, here and abroad, to harm and wipe it out.

Even after their war against Russia and the collapse of communism, the enemies in the West consider Islam and the Muslims the enemies that must be fought with all efforts. They have kept NATO and are currently trying to bolster it and increase its members.

Several regimes in our Arab and Islamic countries responded to this tendency by world enemies. Those regimes persecuted and subdued the Islamic trend and tortured and intimidated its members in a bid to terrorize this trend and prevent the public from cooperating with it.

But the Islamic nations, which adhere to their religion, have discovered that the sincere Islamic trend is rallying those who are most devoted to their homelands. It has been proven that the Islamic nations are making sacrifices, shouldering burdens, and enduring afflictions without entertaining any covetous designs. But they are doing so for the sake of God and their countries. At the same time, the Islamic nations are seeing how some of those in power are benefit-seekers and how they are plundering public funds and receiving bribes from big-time thieves.

We read about these grotesque crimes in the press every day. But all these crimes are forgotten with the passage of time and the criminals never stood trial or were punished, to avoid scandal. Those who reveal the crimes are tried and condemned, while the real criminal is acquitted.

At a time when the widely popular Islamic trend is harassed and prevented from performing its public function on the grounds that its activities are illegal, we see that some parties that are not popular among the people are allowed to perform activities through papers and magazines. Those parties even receive funds and are presented as the representatives of the people.

All this is taking place on the basis of a wrong premise. Some ruling regimes resort to this premise to create a balance between the existing powers. Those regimes try to harass the strong Islamic trend to allow antifreedom forces to perform activities in a bid to minimize the people's cooperation with this strong Islamic trend. But no matter how the defeated secular forces and remnants of communism try, they would not be able to influence this religious Muslim people.

Perhaps it is useful for the younger generations to know some historical facts about the past: In 1964, Russian Prime Minister Khrushchev came to Egypt to inaugurate the second phase of the High Dam. He insisted that all communist prisoners be released before he arrived in Egypt. He also said that the communists should be allowed to work in the entire Egyptian media service. This is what indeed happened. The communists, who were with us in the same al- Wahat prison, took control of the media and exploited the whole service to spread their ideas and cast doubts in Islam.

When al-Sadat assumed power and jumped from the Russian bed to the U.S. bed, he tried to lessen the leftist presence in the media. But the leftist remnants continued their activities. The rulers, however, thought that it would be in their interest to keep the leftists to confront the growing Islamic trend.

We now see that the present regime is giving those writers whose hearts are imbued with hatred and rancor against Islam and the Islamic movements free access to the national papers to inject their poison against Islam and describe it with violence and terrorism, using some acts of violence and the killings and counter-killings between some youth and security and police force as their pretext. These acts did not exist before, but came as a result of the policy of suppression and intimidation, economic crises, unemployment, increase in prices. These acts, in addition to the government's policy of meeting violence with violence, add fuel to the fire. The government's tolerance of sinful practices such as drinking alcohol, gambling, usury, prostitution, immoral media, and drugs seems to be an intentional policy to create a balance between religiousness and moral decadence.

We have been reading for some time now about planned campaigns against some parties that are trying to protect society from those who seek to spread corruption, cause disintegration, and cast doubt on the faith. We notice that the campaign harms the holy al-Aznar and its ulema, who over the ages stood up against malicious campaigns against Islam, the Egyptian nation's official religion according to the Constitution.

Have the remnants of communism forgotten that Russia considered religion the opiate of the people and that it punished anyone in possession of a Koran or anyone who advocated any religion other than communism? Where was the freedom of opinion? Why didn't they object to this kind of suppression?

Islam, the righteous religion that God has chosen for his people, is a religion of peace, freedom, justice, security, and safety. Islam does not approve of any injustice by any party against another and is unique in the sense that it promotes virtue and suppresses vice. It is the duty of the nation's ulema to balance things according to Islam's accurate scales and to caution about what is good and what is bad. If a controversy arises over an issue, it should be referred to God's book and to the tradition of his Prophet, may God's prayer and salutation be upon him. There is no human being who knows more about what is good and what is bad for us than God and his messenger.

These malicious campaigns are launched by those who are called the vanguard in enlightening public opinion about Islam's darkness and shackles and who claim that religion has no authority over art and literature. We should stand up to these campaigns and refute them with unequivocal arguments. In the first place, reality requires these bats to hide in their holes and in the places of darkness and suppression where communism lived, now that they cannot survive in the age of light in which nations demand freedom and true representation. The people should listen to each party's propaganda and then decide what is right and what is wrong and what is beneficial and what is corrupt.

We accept what society decides in genuine, fair elections. But to devise laws marginalizing the Islamic trend and barring this trend from actual participation in legislative elections or to intervene by committing forgery and so forth contradicts the creed of the much-abused democracy.

Had the ruling regime not encouraged this approach, no magazine would have dared to publish this stuff, defying the authority of law and the Constitution and even practically annulling them and denigrating al-Azhar's role in protecting society against any attempt to harm it. A society's value depends on its adherence to virtuous principles and keeping away from depraved morals. God, our creator, has laid down these limits for us and explained what is good and what is bad; but to confuse these limits is corruption itself, and we do not trust the intentions of those who advocate such behavior.

We know that the enemies of Islam promote such ideas and find people among us who will cooperate with them in the name of freedom.

This magazine's challenge, by publishing material unanimously deemed corrupt and mean by the judicial authorities, should not be tolerated in silence by the holy al-Azhar and the Government if they truly mean good for this country. The magazine's publication of excerpts from the book "The Satanic Verses" despite the proven fact that the book attacks Islam and Islam's prophet, is a flagrant declaration of war against Islam, the faith of this Muslim nation.

Demonstrations and sacrifices were made in some countries where parts of this book were published. Does the Government realize the danger it poses when at a time when we need help to stop acts of violence, the magazine is fueling the fire?

The government should have taken the necessary measures to help create calm and stability by lifting restrictions on liberties and releasing those who have not been incriminated. The government should also stop the sinful practices such as drinking alcohol, prostitution, and usury. It should rectify the government media, which are full of corruption. The government should be firm with both large-scale and small-time thieves and should bring up generations on educational and ethical methods.

The Cairo international book fair is approaching. We hope it will be utilized to reform those with corrupt ideas, and not to draw up a plan to harm values and ethics or give an opportunity to those hiding behind the facade of the so-called enlightenment.

Let's review the scenes of struggle between the Muslims and others so that we can see who is responsible for the acts of violence and terrorism. Are they Muslims or others? Who are the terrorists in Palestine? Is it the Zionists or the stone-throwers who are defending their land, which the

enemy has usurped by means of force, killings, deportations, and displacement? Who are the terrorists in Bosnia-Herzegovina? Is it the Muslims, who are defending their land and who are deprived of weapons, or the Serbs and Croatians, who have killed hundreds of thousands, raped tens of thousands of women, and evicted hundreds of thousands?

Who are the terrorists in Kashmir? Are they the Muslims, who have been defending their usurped freedom over the past 40 years, or the Hindu soldiers, who are committing atrocities similar to those being committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina? In Cambodia, the Buddhists are killing hundreds of thousands of Muslims and no one is doing anything to protect the oppressed there. These tragedies are a lasting disgrace for the whole world, which remains silent about these acts. It is also a lasting disgrace in the history of the Arab and Islamic world, which has not taken the appropriate stand dictated by the creed of their peoples—a creed t'.at calls for unity.

If we look at the international situation, we will find that the oppressed Muslims are standing fast, enduring, and remaining firm; they have not relinquished their creed or their land. Those Muslims are hopeful that God will support them and will grant them victory ?one day.

Here in Egypt we see that despite the harassment of the Islamic trend, the Islamists won victories in the elections in the professional associations and various university faculty clubs. The Islamists scored victories despite the government's unified trade union law, which is difficult to surmount. But the Islamists were prepared for the elections and managed to surmount the obstacles. Perhaps the government is thinking of another solution or of placing more difficult obstacles. But we tell all these people [not further specified] not to swim against the current. We are full of hope that God will not abandon his faithful people and will support righteousness and will destroy falsehood and its advocates. And God hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not [Koranic verse].

Out of sympathy, I advise them to reconsider their position because they will not be able to impede this Islamic awakening. Nor will they be able to dissuade the Egyptian people from demanding the adoption of God's law. God will uphold righteousness and will destroy falsehood. This is God's way and it will not be thwarted. It is better for them and for the country to save their efforts and not to stir up tension, because we need calm and cooperation. I only desire your betterment to the best of my power; and my success in my task can only come from God. [Koranic verse]

NCO Shot, Wounded By Unidentified Gunmen

NC3001150494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—A noncommissioned officer, Muhammad Darwish, of al-Minya State Security Detective Bureau sustained bullet wounds to the chest, thigh, and the right foot when unidentified gunmen fired at him today as he was on his way to work on al-Ashraf Street in Mallawi. This was stated by an official source in the Interior Ministry, who said that Darwish was taken to hospital for treatment.

Key figures in the al-Minya Security Directorate and the Public and State Security departments and experts from the various detective departments and the criminology laboratory headed for the scene of the incident to examine it.

Meanwhile, the police are making intense efforts to apprehend the culprits and the incident has been reported to the prosecutor's office to start investigations.

Detained Extremist Leads Police to Arms Cache

NC2901115794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Excerpt] Investigations into the al-Ma'sarah incident [involving a clash between police and extremists in a southern Cairo suburb] took a new turn yesterday. Muhammad Ahmad Farhan, a leader of the military wing of the group [not further specified], led the police to a cache of RPG launchers hidden at a tunnel underneath a house in 'Ayn Hulwan [a southern Cairo suburb]. Police, assisted with sappers and trained dogs, found four RPG launchers, explosives, and several machine guns in the tunnel. [passage omitted]

Libya

Durdah Comments on Former Minister's Disapperance

PM2801164094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jan 94 p 4

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Surt (Libya), AL-HAYAH—Libyan Prime Minister Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah has stressed that the disappearance of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya in Cairo on 10 December "is a conspiracy aimed against Egyptian-Libyan relations" in order to drive a wedge that "would lead to the closure of the border between the two countries with a view to suffocating Libya and intensifying the embargo on it."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH Durdah saluted "the Egyptian brothers for their awareness of the conspiracy." He pointed out that the economic effects of the Lockerbie crisis has paralyzed Libya's ability to meet spending requirements in all spheres, especially with regard to new development projects and securing foreign currency to finance imports.

He pointed out that exporting states are setting the condition that Libya pay the financial credits for imports in full. He said that even the budgets of the biggest and richest states cannot do that.

On Libya's cooperation with Egypt and Tunis, he said that "European states took accounts of their interests when they adopted the resolutions against Libya. But some Arab brothers—either because they did not directly read the text of the Security Council resolution or because of the influence of Western media services—did not understand the resolution the way the Western states concerned with the crisis did." He declined to name these states.

On the reduction in the volume of Egyptian-Libyan trade after Mansur al-Kikhya's disappearance, he said: "There is no link between trade and al-Kikhya's disappearance. Libya has lost billions of dollars as a result of the freezing of its assets abroad. And Libya has taken a number of measures"—he declined to reveal them—"to secure the largest amount possible of these investments, especially liquid investment or those that are easy to liquefy."

On the measures Libya is going to take to reduce workers, Durdah said: "Necessity knows no laws." Libya is preparing steps in this connection, but it will not touch Egyptian and Tunisian workers in particular.

New GPC Secretariat Members, Positions Highlighted

LD2901154194

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1126 GMT on 29 January broadcasts a 3-minute announcer-read report on the names of the new secretaries elected at the General People's Congress [GPC] session.

The announcer begins his report by saying: "The following brothers have been elected to the GPC Secretariat:
—Muhammad al-Zanati as secretary of the GPC [parliament speaker];
—Brother 'Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah as assistant secretary of the GPC;
—Brother 'Ali al-Sha'iri as secretary of the affairs of peoples's congresses at the GPC Secretariat;
—Brother Sa'ad Mujbir as secretary for foreign affairs at the GPC Secretariat;
—Brother Mahmud al-Hitki as secretary for the affairs of the people's committees at the GPC Secretariat;
—Brother 'Ali al-Shamikh as secretary for the affairs of trade unions at the GPC Secretariat."

The announcer continues by saying: "As for the General People's Committee [government]:
—Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud as secretary of the General People's Committee [prime minister];
—Brother Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi as secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security;
—Dr. Fathi ibn-Shatwan as secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry;
—Engineer Mubarak al-Shamikh as secretary of the General People's Committee for Housing and Utilities;
—Engineer 'Izz-al-Din al-Hinshiri as secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Transport;
—Dr. Muhammad Bayt-al-Mal as secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and Finance;
—Dr. Tahir al-Jihimi as secretary of General People's Committee for Economy and Trade;
—Engineer 'Isa 'Abd-al-Kafi as secretary of the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation;
—Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Ibrahim as secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture and Mass Mobilization;
—Engineer Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi as secretary of the General People's Committee for the Great Man-made River Project;
—Dr. Mahmud Badi as secretary for the General People's Committee for People's Control and Follow-up."

The announcer ends his report by saying: "Honorable listeners and viewers, this afternoon there will be the final session of the General People's Congress for the adoption of the final formulation of the Basic People's Congress resolutions."

Mauritania

No Overall Majority Reported in Municipal Elections

LD2901171894 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] In Mauritania the two main parties were unable to obtain an absolute majority in the local elections, which were held for the first time yesterday under multiparty conditions. The most striking feature of the elections was the failure of the candidates to gain the votes needed to prevent the holding of a second round of voting, which will take place on 4 February in all the municipalities where candidates were unable to gain more than 50 percent of the votes cast.

According to the official preliminary results, the Republican Democratic and Social Party and the Union of Democratic Forces [UFD] gained an equal number of votes, especially in the capital Nouakchott and the financial capital Noudhibu.

In Nouakchott, the party of Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya gained 44.77 percent of the votes cast, while its rival the UFD, which is the most important opposition grouping, gained 42 percent of the votes in the capital. The Union for Democracy and Progress obtained 15 percent of the votes cast in a total of 208 municipalities in Mauritania.

Opposition Cries 'Foul'

AB3001094094 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 29 Jan 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Votes are being counted in Mauritania, which yesterday went to the polls to elect local government officials. The election is the first test of the government's

popularity since presidential elections in 1992. The opposition has cried foul, alleging that voters had been bused into the towns from the countryside and that the ink used to mark the (?sums) of voters wasn't indelible. For their part, the government says the opposition forged identity cards. Now as Shayk Bekaye reports in this telex from Nouakchott, the first results are out:

[Begin studio announcer recording] The ruling party in Mauritania has taken the lead in local elections. Provisional results give President Ould Taya's Democratic and Social Republican Party, PRDS, 90 percent of seats in rural districts, except in the south where there are a majority of black Mauritanians who voted for the Union of Democratic Forces, the main opposition grouping. The opposition did much better in the cities. In Noaukchott and Nouadhibou, there will be a second round of voting on Friday [4 February] as no party managed to win an outright majority. The opposition also forced a second round in urban areas of the east, a surprise for observers, who had expected the ruling party to do well.

The PRDS did all it could to win in urban centers, mobilizing massive financial and material resources and the result is seen as setback for the popularity of Ould Taya. Officials of his party were keen to point out that conditions have changed since 1992, when the government was accused of malpractice in presidential elections. Yesterday's voting brought accusations of cheating on all sides. Independent observers said some people were voting more than once but said both government and opposition supporters were involved. [end recording]

Ruling Party 'Poised To Win'

AB3001225094 Paris AFP in French 1931 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Nouakchott, 30 Jan (AFP)—The ruling Democratic and Social Republican Party [PRDS] is poised to win most of the 208 communes, in spite of the strong showing of the Union of Democratic Forces (UFD), the main opposition party, according to official results of municipal elections published here this evening.

The PRDS of Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya is expected to retain the majority in 160 communes while UFD is expected to win in at least 32 communes, an official source stated. Independent candidates have won about 20 towns, with the rate of participation at around 60 percent. The second round is slated for 4 February. Final results should be known tomorrow.

PRDS, UFD, and the Union for Democracy and Progress (UDP), the second opposition party, will be contesting the second ballot in about 10 communes including Nouakchott, the political capital, and Nouadhibou, the economic capital. In Nouakchott, PRDS obtained 44.77 percent of votes as against 42 percent for UFD. According to partial results, the two parties obtained identical percentages in Nouadhibou. The PRDS will also be contesting the second ballot at Nema and Aoun, two eastern towns where it had absolute majority.

The UDP, which was legalized in 1993, has already called on its voters to cast their votes for the UFD during the second round in areas where it came third. The municipal elections are being held two years after the first pluralist elections (March 1992 presidential and legislative elections) and three years after the introduction of multiparty democracy into Mauritania.

More Electoral Results Noted

LD3101000694

[Editorial Report] Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic at 2030 GMT on 30 January carried a detailed dispatch by its reporter at the Ministry of Interior, Posts and Telecommunications on the results of the first ballot of the local elections. The report said that 197 municipalities out of a total of 208 had been decided in the first ballot. The remaining 11 municipalities will be decided in a second ballot on 4 February. 540,284 people, 70.05 percent of those eligible to vote, voted in the election. The following are the results as given in the dispatch:

Number of municipalities contested:	208
Number of seats contested:	3244
Number of lists of nominees:	347

The following final results of the first ballot were given:

Number of municipalities decided in the first ballot: 197

The ruling Republican Democratic and Social Party won 163 municipalities. The Union of Democratic Forces "'Ahd Jadid" won 16 municipalities. Independents won 18 municipalities.

There is some discrepancy between the total number of muncipalities won by the two parties given at the end of the report and the breakdown of the number of municipalities won in each province. In the breakdown the number of municipalities won by the ruling Republican Democratic and Social Party adds up to 164, the number of municipalities won by the Union of Democratic Forces adds up to 17 and the number of municipalities won by independents adds up to 18. That brings the number of municipalities decided in the first ballot to 199.

Qatar

Doha Rejects Alleged U.S. Call To Sever Ties With Iran

LD2801172294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Qatar has rejected America's request to sever ties with the Islamic republic of Iran. Sharjah's AL-KHALIJ newspaper has printed a detailed report on the visit by Qatar's foreign minister, Shaykh Hamad bin-Jabbur al-Thani, to America, and his meetings with American officials, including Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The report states: Despite America's caution to Qatar about its ties with Iran, and the request to Qatar to sever these ties, the Qatari foreign minister, in his meeting with reporters, described the stances of his country vis-a-vis strengthening relations with the Islamic republic of Iran and other regional countries.

According to this newspaper, the American secretary of state called Iran a dangerous country and cautioned Qatar against moving close to Iran. In response to Christopher's request, the Qatari foreign minister described Qatar's regional situation and its interests. He stressed: Qatar will not, under any circumstances, change its policy toward Iran, and will make efforts to establish the best possible relations with the Islamic republic of Iran.

Yemen

Salih Opens GPC 'Extraordinary' Committee Session

JN3001132494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The Standing Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] today held an extraordinary session under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and GPC secretary general. During this session, the Standing Committee examined several issues and developments on the national scene, particularly the recent developments in our country in light of the finalization of the document of accord by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee and the positive stand declared toward this document by the GPC.

The conferees also discussed a number of organizational issues as well as the missions and tasks the GPC will undertake during the forthcoming phase.

The session was opened by Koranic recitations. Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and GPC secretary general, then delivered a speech, noting the importance of this extraordinary session of the GPC Standing Committee, and highlighting the critical issues it is examining, chief among which is the document of accord initialed by the parties to the Political Forces Dialogue Committee. He said that our people are currently on the threshold of an important historical phase after the realization of their great accomplishment on 22 May 1990. He added: Right now, we are meeting while our people are looking forward, with strong hopes and great confidence, to ending the regrettable crisis which surfaced on 19 August 1993, and which we never sought in the first place. This crisis has caused immense devastation. It has been a terrible nightmare that weighed heavily on the minds of the people, who have been caused a great deal of suffering, the brother Presidential Council chairman maintained.

Further on Salih Address

JN3101072494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] The Standing Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] today held an extraordinary session under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and GPC secretary general. During this session, the Standing Committee examined several issues and developments on the national scene, particularly the recent developments in our country in light of the finalization of the document of pledge and accord by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee to overcome the crisis and build the Yemeni state as well as the positive supportive stand declared toward this document by the GPC.

The conferees also discussed a number of organizational issues as well as the missions and tasks the GPC will undertake during the forthcoming phase.

The session was opened by Koranic recitations. Brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and GPC secretary general, then delivered a speech, noting the importance of this extraordinary session of the GPC Standing Committee, and highlighting the critical issues it is examining, chief among which is the accord document initialed by the parties to the Political Forces Dialogue Committee. He said that our people are currently on the threshold of an important historical phase after the realization of their great accomplishment on 22 May 1990. He added: Right now, we are meeting while our people are looking forward, with strong hopes and great confidence, to ending the regrettable crisis which surfaced on 19 August 1993, and which we never sought in the first place. This crisis has caused immense devastation. It has been a terrible nightmare that weighed heavily on the minds of the people, who have been caused a great deal of suffering, the brother Presidential Council chairman maintained.

The chairman of the Presidential Council and the GPC secretary general added: When unity was achieved, we agreed to follow the best way in our experiment to build a new Yemen. We also agreed to follow positive courses in this experiment. He added: The crises are not part of these positive courses. There were many good mechanisms that could have been followed in the fields of development, administration, and building the individual. Also, there are many positive courses that could be followed in building streets, establishing the basic structures of development, founding educational academies, and exploiting resources.

Salih said: What calls for pride is that the GPC has always championed these mechanisms and has played a prominent role in achieving many of the achievements witnessed by all Yemenis. The mechanism of the GPC was that of building and construction, promoting the standards of individuals, safeguarding the people's blood and rights, and respecting their rights, Salih maintained. The GPC has always shown love and tolerance to all out of its concern for the higher interests of the homeland and people. It also cooperated with the honest and good national forces to build Yemen's prosperous future.

Salih added that the GPC has a clear record full of good intentions and sacrifices for the homeland, and full of tolerance and amity among its members and with others. The GPC has embodied the strong commitment to democracy within its ranks and in dealing with others, and has pioneered the entrenching of political pluralism within the party's framework. The party has provided a national umbrella for all to work for a secure, unified, and prosperous homeland.

The brother president said: The crisis and all its repercussions—the likes of which the homeland had never witnessed throughout its contemporary history—constituted a clear circumvention of constitutional legitimacy and the results of the parliamentary elections held on 27 April 1993, which represented the shining image of the great unity achievement. However, we hope that the document of pledge and accord will be the means for resolving the crisis and deterring those who want to harm the homeland, its unity, and democratic march. We have to begin a new stage in which everyone shoulders his responsibilities concerning the practical implementation of the document, and everyone devotes himself to construction and development rather than continuing these repeated crises, the reasons for which we all know, as well as those responsible for them.

President Salih said: Sanaa, the political capital of united Yemen, which embraced all the Yemeni homeland's sons throughout the stages of national struggle for liberation from British tyranny and colonialism, will continue to be the city of peace and steadfastness, and will continue to embrace unity. Sanaa will also embrace all parties, the same as it embraced the revolution and the republican system and protected them in the face of all challenges and all hostile attacks launched by the revolution's enemies in the 1960's and 1970's.

He said: On 22 May 1990 we began a new stage, and we should eliminate the consequences of the past mentality and the remnants of the totalitarian regime. We should never allow the mentality of conspiracy, bloody coups, and ideological and political terrorism to return or dominate our new life. Today, we call on GPC cadres and supporters to prepare to be—as our people have known them to be—at the forefront of the national fold, shouldering their responsibilities efficiently and sincerely to safeguard unity and democracy, and to grasp and interact with the facts and all national and international changes in a manner that meets our people's aspirations for progress and prosperity. They should always be the strong defenders of unity and democracy.

He said: We highly appreciate the efforts made by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, and applaud the role played by the GPC representative within the framework of the committee. We hope that the political forces, led by the GPC, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, will intensify their efforts to implement the document. This is the real test of credibility and intentions, and this requires unity of political will and collective efforts by all constitutional establishments to shoulder their duties in an effective manner in order to implement the document.

The brother president said: We call on all political forces, social figures, intellectuals, and all the homeland's sons to comprehend well the dangers facing the homeland, and to be united in the face of all those who try to divide the national fold or endanger our national and homeland's unity. We should move to the stage of construction rather than harmful political disputes. He who calls for sectarianism is not one of us because we are a united Yemeni people and all of us shoulder the responsibility for maintaining the unity of the ranks and homeland.

The Standing Committee discussed several important national and organizational issues on its agenda, as well as developments relating to the political crisis. The committee will continue its discussions tomorrow, Monday.

UN Arms Inspector Says Mission 'Successful'

NC3001174394 Paris AFP in English 1650 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Manama, Jan 30 (AFP)—The head of a 16-member UN arms inspection team said here Sunday [30 January] his just-ended mission to Iraq was a success, adding that Iraqi officials had promised to cooperate in setting up a monitoring system.

"We achieved all objectives," said Russian team leader Nikita Smidovitch, who told reporters his 10-day mission to Iraq had been "successful."

Smidovitch was inspecting Iraq's military arsenal under UN Security Council Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"The Iraqis had a forthcoming attitude," Smidovitch said. "Iraq has promised to cooperate and said they will do what they can to shorten the period" needed to set the monitoring process in motion.

He was to leave Manama, the United Nations' base for Iraqi missions, late Sunday.

The long-term monitoring of the Iraqi arms program is crucial to Baghdad's hopes for an end to the embargo imposed after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. By accepting Security Council Resolution 715, Iraq hopes to at least have UN sanctions on its oil exports lifted.

Asked how many missions were still needed before long-term monitoring could begin, Smidovitch replied? "Quite frankly, it will take time. We need more activities to set up the monitoring process."

The surveillance program is the next UN step following the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction after the Gulf war of January-February 1991.

Iraq agreed to the surveillance in November after rejecting it for three years and has been lobbying hard for an end to the embargo.

On Wednesday, the UN's deputy disarmament chief said long-term monitoring of Baghdad's weapons program was still some way off despite Iraq's efforts to have sanctions lifted.

American Charles Duelfer, deputy head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) disarming Iraq under the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions, spent five days in Iraq preparing a visit there this week by his boss Rolf Ekeus.

Ekeus is due to arrive in Baghdad on Tuesday to discuss monitoring, but has said he is unlikely to recommend a lifting of sanctions before the end of the year.

U.S. Senate Decision Reveals 'Zionist' Control

JN3101105094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper says the decisionmaking process in the United States reveals the extent of the Zionist lobby's control of U.S. policy.

In an article today, the paper, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, notes the U.S. Senate decision prohibiting U.S. arms sales to any Arab state that adheres to the boycott of "Israel." The Senate's unanimous decision shows very clearly to what degree U.S. decisionmakers are under the control of the Zionist octopus at the expense of legitimate U.S. interests and U.S. taxpayers.

The paper also highlights the U.S. Administration's attitude toward the Zionist lobby's domination, saying that the tentacles of the Zionist octopus are all over the White House and that the Presidential Office is not safe from Zionist influence. In this regard, the paper notes what happened when another nominee was appointed to replace the former Defense Secretary Les Aspin, who reportedly resigned for personal reasons. The Zionist lobby forced President Clinton to withdraw his nomination of the retired General Bobby Inman in favor of the Zionist candidate William Perry, Aspin's deputy who is known for his intelligence activities.

The ban on arms sales and the withdrawal of Inman's nomination show that U.S. decisions are purely Zionist in terms of their substance, endorsement, and aims. No one can now dare to differentiate between U.S. national interests and those of world Zionism and its usurping entity in occupied Palestine.

The paper says the Zionist octopus is ruling the United States through U.S. tools. It is enough here to note that four senior officials of the U.S. Administration, led by Vice President Al Gore, are well-known Zionists.

The paper also reviews the effects of this situation on developments in the Arab arena. The Arab rulers who have tied their decisions to U.S. decisions are, in reality, carrying out the orders and decisions of Zionism. They should expect more humiliating and disgraceful decisions.

The paper highlights the attempts of some Arab regimes to break and end the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity, saying that, in light of this, the U.S. Administration is in no need of such a Zionist decision to ban arms sales to countries that boycott "Israel".

The paper cites Republican Senator Brown as saying that most Arab countries do not oppose such a measure, and that some of them have indeed dropped the boycott. In fact, there are some people in the region who are more eager than Brown to end the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity and tighten the Iraq embargo.

Regime Forces Said To Attack Dollar Market

JN2901194494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] We have received confirmed news from Baghdad saying that on the evening of Wednesday, 26 January 1994, a number of jumbo [preceding word in English] cars, affiliated with the Iraqi regime's intelligence service, were driven at high speed into a square near the Baghdad International Fair, which has become a market for dollar dealers. The Iraqi regime's intelligence forces asked the dealers to be quiet and to remain in their places. However,

the dealers, who were aware of the intentions of the intelligence men, tried to escape. The regime's men fired at those who tried to escape, killing and wounding many innocent people. After gaining control over the area, the regime men arrested many people and left the bodies of the slain in the streets. Such criminal acts have exacerbated the miserable situation in Baghdad and increased the citizens' worries.

Companies Buying, Selling Foreign Currencies

JN3001213094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Several companies have begun mediating to buy and sell foreign currencies in Baghdad in accordance with the instructions issued by the Central Bank of Iraq in this regard.

A responsible source at the control directorate overseeing banks' foreign transfers told the Iraqi News Agency that the activities of these companies are confined to mediating to sell foreign currencies at a commission defined by the bank. He pointed out that these companies are not allowed to present direct or indirect credit offers and facilities, open current accounts for their currencies, accept deposits in any form, or present guarantees in local or foreign currencies, except sureties presented to the Central Bank of Iraq.

Kurdish Leader Warns Against Mass Exodus of Kurds

AU3101111594 Vienna PROFIL in German 31 Jan 94 p 56

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, chairman of the Kurdish Democratic Party, by Georg Hoffmann-Ostenhof in Arbil, northern Iraq; date not given: "Just Like Before an Execution"]

[Text] [Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Mr. Barzani, there is an elected regional government in northern Iraq and de facto autonomy for the Iraqi Kurds. However, the economic situation is terrible. Is your experiment doomed to fail?

[Barzani] We cannot enjoy our freedom without a functioning economy. I am afraid that the Kurds will soon flee again to other countries in masses.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Do you want to threaten the friendly allies, who protect you, with this?

[Barzani] No. But if the misery here increases, the people will again move to Iran or to Turkey—or perhaps even to the south.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] To Saddam Husayn's Iraq?

[Barzani] If the people are starving....

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] The UN economic embargo against Iraq also hits you, because, despite its autonomy, Kurdistan continues to be Iraqi territory.

[Barzani] Yes. I have asked the United States several times to lift the embargo against us. The answer always was: We know that you are not involved in Saddam's criminal acts, we will continue to talk about that. But nothing has happened. There is a lot of Iraqi money abroad. We have demanded that some of this frozen money is given to us—in vain.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Are you in favor of lifting the embargo against Iraq in general?

[Barzani] It is of no advantage to us that the Iraqi people suffer. If the embargo were lifted under UN control, and if the sale of Iraqi oil benefited the people in the country and not the regime, we would be in favor of it.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Iraqi Kurdistan is protected against Saddam Husayn's attacks by the Allies. Every six months, the question of the protection zone is decided anew. Does this not create uncertainty?

[Barzani] Our situation is like that of a person sentenced to death waiting for execution in his cell. The period of protection is again and again extended, of course. However, the uncertain wait has fatal psychological effects on the population.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Until 1992 you negotiated with Saddam Husayn. Then the talks were suspended. Can you envisage a resumption?

[Barzani] Actually, we only want to negotiate with a democratic government. But if the Kurdish people are threatened with destruction..., then negotiations with Baghdad will perhaps be necessary.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] Do you really believe that Saddam Husayn will be overthrown?

[Barzani] This is not so simple. Thirty states were unable to overthrow Saddam. But I believe that he is suffering from the international isolation.

[Hoffmann-Ostenhof] A colorful Iraqi opposition front, which is mainly active in exile, presents itself as an alternative to dictatorship. Your party is part of it. Is this opposition mature enough to take over the government if Saddam is toppled?

[Barzani] No matter how I assess the opposition's political maturity—we do not have anything else.

PUK Deaths From Islamic Movement Offensive Reported

LD2901165994 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Mahabad (West Azarbaijan Prov.), Jan. 29, IRNA—Four peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) were killed in an offensive by the Islamic Movement forces, an informed Iraqi Kurdish source told IRNA here today.

According to the source the attack was launched on 'Shuresh' camp in Khurmal on Thursday, where the PUK organizational committee lies.

At least ten partisan operations have been carried out against the PUK, headed by Jalal Talabani, over the past ten days, during which several of its members have been killed.

The new waves of operations are in retaliation for the January occupation of Islamic Movements' headquarters and bases north of Iraq by the PUK forces.

Radioactive 'Leak' From Dimona Reactor Reported

NC2801150594 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 26 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] A serious radioactive leak has taken place at Israel's Dimona Reactor in the Negev desert. Responsible Egyptian sources have disclosed that the Egyptian border region may be affected by the leak. There is fear of nuclear fallout [tarsibat] in the area from al-'Arish to Rafah. The responsible quarters have instructed experts in chemical warfare to conduct a full survey of the border region and measure the degree of radiation.

Rabin on Peace Process, Referendum on Syria

BR2801142294 Paris LIBERATION in French 28 Jan 94 pp 2-4

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Christophe Boltanski, Marc Kravetz, and Patrick Sabatier in Strasbourg; date not given: "Golan, Gaza-Jericho, Referendum...the Israeli Prime Minister Analyzes the Situation"—first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] Strasbourg—Yitzhaq Rabin wants "greater involvement" by the Europeans in the peace process. The Israeli prime minister is particularly counting on their aid to secure the lifting of the Arab boycott. Addressing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, he gave a positive account of the Israeli-Arab negotiations and in particular welcomed the "progress" achieved with the Syrians. He tempered this optimism in an interview to LIBERATION.

[LIBERATION] You have said several times that 1994 will be decisive for the Near East. Decisive for a lasting and comprehensive peace?

[Rabin] I hope so. I am not saying that we will be able to achieve peace with all the partners in the negotiations—Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians—before the end of the year. But if we succeed in implementing the agreement which we have reached with the PLO, even if we only implement its first phase, I think that we will have reached the point of no return. The same remark is valid for the negotiations with Syria. But, on this point, unless a basic agreement is reached on the essential problems in 1994, we have reason to fear that it will then be too late.

[LIBERATION] Are you optimistic?

[Rabin] It is not a question of being optimistic or pessimistic. If we really make progress with the Palestinians and Syria, then the other questions—Lebanon and Jordan—will be resolved without any major problem. We have no territorial problem with those countries, and there is no fundamental obstacle to reaching peace with them. But those two countries cannot open the way.

[LIBERATION] Many obstacles have arisen in your negotiations with the PLO which have delayed the implementation of the agreement signed in Washington. Will they be overcome in the near future?

[Rabin] The real problem stems from a difference in approach between Yasir 'Arafat and us. I told him during our long conversation in Cairo on 12 December that it was perhaps a mistake not to have taken the time to discuss the significance of the document which we signed. It all stems from that. He thinks, and his viewpoint is understandable, that the first phase of the interim Gaza-Jericho agreement is already a step toward an independent Palestinian state. The declaration in principle clearly specifies that the discussion on the final status (of the occupied territories) will start at the latest in the two years following the completion of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. These are not symbolic issues. I am not talking about flags, I am talking about a Palestinian currency, control of international borders, or other aspects which form a practical part of the notion of an independent state. They tell us that these are matters of dignity. We respect their dignity. But we do not confuse dignity and sovereignty and, at this stage, we cannot agree to introduce elements which affect sovereignty.

[LIBERATION] Which elements, for instance?

[Rabin] There are three fundamental problems which may seem minor but which, for us, are not minor. Yasir 'Arafat is demanding the presence of Palestinian police on the bridge (Allenby bridge, the crossing point between Jordan and the West Bank). We agree, but we want to be able to interrogate, out of their presence, any person, foreigner or Palestinian, who crosses the bridge and who, we think, could present a threat to our security. The two sides already have a right of veto. But that is not enough to prevent anybody from crossing the border. We want to be able to check whether our suspicions are founded or not. Second, the question of the area of the autonomous region of Jericho has not been resolved.

Third, they (the Palestinians) want to control a road between Jericho and the (Allenby) bridge. We agree that any Palestinian who has crossed the border should be able to go to Jericho without having his identity checked by an Israeli. But they want a new road built, and we do not understand what the purpose of that is. The safety of travel will remain our responsibility outside the areas which will be under the Palestinians' authority.

[LIBERATION] Would it be possible to envisage a Palestinian border post without the visible presence of Israeli soldiers?

[Rabin] The declaration in principle clearly states that Israel is responsible for external security. It makes reference to the crossing points and talks clearly of coordination. We accept the presence of Palestinians to deal with the Palestinians. But we want to be sure that no terrorist crosses the border and that a quarter of a million more Palestinians do not come and settle on the West Bank.

[LIBERATION] Is it possible, despite everything, to think that the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Gaza and Jericho will be achieved on 13 April, as planned, or will there be further delays?

[Rabin] It is preferable to devote more time to clarifying everything which can be clarified to avoid conflicts and misunderstandings later. Once an agreement has been reached—an agreement which does not give rise to differences of interpretation—the implementation will be all the quicker. There are no sacrosanct dates.

Each phase must be negotiated, as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles. This is not the same thing as negotiating with the three neighboring states and with the PLO. In the first case, once a peace agreement has been achieved, each will be within its borders. With the Palestinians, we must achieve peaceful coexistence among two entities whose past history has shown that they do not have much liking for each other and which, moreover, are closely intertwined. The risks of friction are so high that we must define everything in the finest detail. Who will be responsible for what? What will be the instruments of cooperation and coordination between us? If we do not answer those questions, there will be general chaos.

[LIBERATION] Are you not afraid that the delays in the implementation of the agreement might encourage the oppositionists in the two camps?

[Rabin] I will not deny that these delays reduce the support for the agreement both among the Palestinians and the Israelis. The Hamas extremists are determined to step up terrorism, hoping to strengthen the Israelis' reactions of rejection. The same thing applies with regard to the PLO and the Palestinians who approve of the agreement. But I think that as soon as we put the agreement into practice, we will overcome the current problems.

[LIBERATION] After the meeting in Geneva between Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton, can we expect rapid progress in your negotiations with Syria?

[Rabin] I hope so. But it is important to understand the problem. In a democracy like Israel, it is impossible to solve a crucial problem without the assent of public opinion, at least the majority of public opinion. Remember the peace agreement with Egypt. It was possible because President al-Sadat, visiting Jerusalem, convinced the Israelis of his peaceful intentions by his speech to the Knesset. He thus wiped away the hatred and suspicion built up over 28 years of conflict. President al-Asad has not come 2 percent of the way traveled by President al-Sadat to win over Israeli public opinion. When, during the Geneva news conference, an American journalist questioned President al-Asad about the meaning he gave to the word "peace," he allowed Bill Clinton to answer for him.

[LIBERATION] Do you hope that Hafiz al-Asad will be able to follow President al-Sadat's example?

[Rabin] I do not expect him to do so. But, at some stage, the two countries' foreign ministers will have to meet. We have asked for there to be discreet preliminary talks at a relatively high level. Following his recent visit to Damascus, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced to us that the Syrian president had accepted our proposal. What has he in fact done? He has appointed the head of the Syrian delegation—Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador al-'Allaf.

[LIBERATION] You have announced that you want to put any agreement with Syria to a referendum. Can you tell us more about that?

[Rabin] The question of whether or not to make peace with Syria is a crucial problem, as is accepting a major withdrawal from the Golan Heights. There must be no misunderstanding or opposition on this subject. I think that the best thing is to allow the people to decide. All stable democracies hold referendums on major issues. Why should Israel not do so on a subject which is even more vital, not only for its prosperity but for its security?

[LIBERATION] Why not hold a referendum on the whole peace process, as your opposition is demanding?

[Rabin] Peace with Syria and the loss of most of the Golan Heights are much more important questions than peace with Lebanon or Jordan, which does not involve any territorial problem and does not affect the borders. With regard to Palestinian autonomy, I think I have a mandate from the voters.

[LIBERATION] What will happen if the answer is no?

[Rabin] I do not want to answer hypothetical questions. I think that the Israeli people want peace. Of course, I cannot be absolutely certain of the result. But we first need clear indications about what peace means for Syria, what the territorial price is, what the security arrangements will be, the timetable for withdrawal, the link between peace and this withdrawal, and so forth. I will then be able to ask the question: Are you in favor of this peace agreement? And the answer can only be yes or no.

[LIBERATION] In your recent statements, you seem to give real credence to President al-Asad. Why?

[Rabin] Hafiz al-Asad has two faces. On the one hand, he encourages—especially since the agreement with the PLO was signed—the terrorism of the 10 Palestinian organizations opposed to the agreement which have their headquarters in Damascus, and the terrorism of Hizballah in Lebanon. At least he does nothing to end it. But we also know that Hafiz al-Asad keeps his word. The respecting of the agreement on withdrawal from the Golan Heights signed with Syria in May 1974 is evidence of that.

[LIBERATION] In domestic political terms, do you nonetheless think you can pursue the two negotiations with the PLO and Syria at the same time?

[Rabin] In the parliamentary sphere, there is no doubt that I only have a majority of one seat. But while I have the majority, I am determined to go ahead. By announcing the use of the referendum on the question of peace with Syria, I think I have increased the chances of being able to advance on the two fronts.

[LIBERATION] Are we to understand that your decision to hold the referendum is definite?

[Rabin] Undoubtedly. We need a specific law, because the use of the referendum is not a provision which exists in Israel. When we have achieved the kind of agreement which the government, or the majority of the cabinet, can propose for the people's approval, we will refer this matter to the Knesset.

IDF Evacuates, Seals Off New Settlement Area

TA3001174494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The settler group that established a new settlement by the name of Yad David near Ginot Shomron this afternoon has just been ordered to evacuate the area. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has declared the area a closed military zone, and the local Army commander notified settlers and reporters that all those who do not leave the place within a few minutes will be detained. [passage omitted]

IDF Operations, Incidents in Territories Reported

TA2801155194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jan 94 p A4

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Reports summing up the Central Command's activity in 1993 reveal that, from the beginning of 1988 to the end of 1993, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] demolished 205 houses of Palestinians who were involved in terrorist activities, sealed 228 houses, and sealed off 146 alleys. [passage omitted]

In 1993, the Central Command carried out 1,456 special operations. This figure includes operations by the Duvdevan undercover unit and operations to capture fugitives. March registered a record number of operations—156.

A soldier was lightly injured when stones were thrown at an IDF patrol in Gaza yesterday. He was treated and sent back to his unit.

A resident of Rafah who was digging in his field was surprised to find 28 land mines yesterday. He summoned the IDF and the defense forces which detonated the mines. IDF sources reported that the man was held for interrogation, but it is believed that he was not involved in planting the mines and that they were placed there by terrorists.

Two Palestinians were murdered yesterday on suspicion of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah have recently been conducting a campaign of murdering suspected collaborators.

Palestinian sources yesterday reported a series of incidents in the territories in which four residents were injured. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Incidents

TA2901204894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly injured by a grenade thrown at them in Rafah this afternoon. Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the three were evacuated to hospital, and IDF troops launched searches for the perpetrators.

Two Arab residents were wounded by soldiers gunfire in Gaza this afternoon. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that as a soccer game between Gaza and Rafah teams was in progress, IDF soldiers entered the field to pursue an armed suspect. While in pursuit, they were pelted with stones by the spectators.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 29 January adds: "Last night in Rafah, IDF soldiers captured a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist carrying a Kalashnikov and ammunition.

["A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a Border Police patrol near Abu-Dis tonight. The bottle shattered and ignited, but no one was hurt and no damage was caused."]

Fatah figures have expressed satisfaction with the results of the elections to the Gaza Strip Engineers Association, in which Fatah representatives were elected to four out of the nine seats, with Islamic Jihad and Hamas, which ran on a joint list, gaining the other four seats. [The ninth seat is to be held by rotation.] The elected chairman is Sa'id Khurama from Fatah. Our correspondent in the south notes that because of Fatah's dire financial condition, by comparison to other organizations, Fatah had been unable to achieve better results in the election campaign, with many candidates defecting to Hamas as a result of Fatah's inability to pay salaries.

Jordanian Diplomat Assassinated in Beirut 29 Jan

Assassination Announced to Senate

JN2901102094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] At a Senate meeting being held to discuss the state's draft budget, Acting Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar announced the assassination of a Jordanian diplomat at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, martyr Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar said the treacherous hand wherever it might be will not succeed, and Jordan, led by His Majesty King Husayn, will go forward without hesitation. He prayed for God's mercy for the martyr who joined the galaxy of righteous martyrs.

The Senate members recited the opening sura of the Koran for the martyr's soul.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

JN2901125794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Acting Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar announces to the Jordanian family, with great sorrow and sadness, the martyrdom of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, first secretary at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, who was the target of a treacherous attack in Beirut today. [passage omitted]

In another development, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement on this sinful action. Following is the text of the statement:

We received with great sorrow and pain the news about the martyrdom of one of Jordan's sons, Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, the counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, this morning following a sinful attack while he was on his way from his residence to his office at the embassy.

While condemning this brutal attack, the Jordanian Government will embark on the necessary measures to learn about the circumstances surrounding the attack, and efforts to pursue the terrorists and criminals who are responsible for this criminal action, regardless of the party to which they belong.

The Jordanian Government also condemns all forms of terrorism that target innocent peoples.

Lebanese foreign and interior ministers, accompanied by commander of public security and other Lebanese officials, called on the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, and expressed their denunciation of this criminal action and their full readiness to pursue and identify the perpetrators.

An honorary mission left for Beirut in a special airplane to escort the body of the deceased back home.

Officials Blame 'Extremist Elements'

JN2901175694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Dispatch by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Excerpt] Crown Prince Hasan has led a delegation to receive the body of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, which has arrived in Amman aboard a military plane, following his assassination in Beirut in front of his residence. The coffin, which was wrapped in Jordanian flag, was taken off the plane while the members of Na'ib's family shouted: Allahu Akbar [God is great], O martyr of Jordan.

Official Jordanian sources have ruled out any personal motive behind this operation because it was carried out in an organized way. The Jordanian officials, who do not see any clear explanation for the assassination, noted that it is linked with extremist elements, perhaps against the background of Jordan's involvement in the peace process. Amman is waiting for the results of the ongoing investigations in Lebanon and asked to be briefed on the results as details are available. [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan on Assassination 'Outrage'

JN2901212094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 29 Jan 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] His majesty the king denounced the assassination of a Jordanian diplomat in Beirut, and said that treacherous crimes committed against us would only increase our determination to continue in our path as one family. In a message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, the king said that Jordanians are the soldiers of the nation who are not afraid of death to defend its rights and to secure life and peace. His majesty said the rats and the bats of the night, whether ordering or executing the murder, will be disgraced till doomsday.

The body of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, who was assassinated in Lebanon this morning, was brought back home tonight. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, accompanied by the prime minister and several other officials, as well as his family members, were at the airport to receive the body. The regent described the killing as a heinous crime, and said Jordan would seek the culprits out and bring them to justice.

[Begin recording] [Hasan] It is too early to tell. It is a heinous crime. It is another outrage against Jordanian diplomats abroad. And we are certainly going to make every serious, determined effort to find them out and to bring them to justice.

[Reporter] Will you file a protest with the Lebanese Government?

[Hasan] The Lebanese Government have been extremely helpful, extremely concerned. The prime minister was in touch with our embassy this morning, as were the Lebanese foreign minister and minister of interior. We appreciate this strong stand.

[Reporter] How do you feel about that? It is a sad story?

[Hasan] I think it is an outrage that proves once again that individuals and innocents pay the price when criminals are

(?abroad). And that this is something that this country will never accept. We shall continue to do every thing in our power to bring the perpetrators to justice.

[Reporter] Do you think that this was an act against the peace process?

[Hasan] Well, it is certainly against every thing that civilized [words indistinct] in this part of the world and the world ....

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Hasan] Thank you. [end recording]

Forty-three-old Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, a counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut was gunned down as he was leaving to work. Lebanese police said a lone assassin with an unarmed accomplice went up to al-Ma'ayitah's car and pumped at least seven bullets through the driver's window. Al-Ma'aytiah died instantly as most of the bullets from a 9 mm pistol hit his head and neck. There was no immediate claims of responsibility or clues as to the motives of the assassination, the first such crime against a foreign diplomat in Lebanon since 1987. Police officials said the killer and the accomplice escaped possibly in a car waiting close by.

Al-Ma'ayitah, who had been serving in Lebanon for about one year, is survived by his wife and two sons and a daughter.

Al-Majali Comments on Beirut Murder

JN3001180694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives today held a session under House Speaker Tahir al-Masri and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and the ministers. The House discussed a number of its agenda items. Details are in the following report by our correspondent:

At the outset of the session and before discussing the agenda, House Speaker Tahir al-Masri announced the death of Senate Member Bahjat al-Talhuni. He also denounced the wicked attack on late martyr Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut. [passage omitted]

The House agreed to issue a statement denouncing this heinous crime. Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that the Jordanian Government is in constant contact with the Lebanese Government and will be kept informed about the investigations in this case as Jordan has asked to take part in these investigations.

Dr. al-Majali said: [Begin al-Majali recording] In fact, there have been contacts with the Lebanese Government between the minister of interior and his counterpart over there [word indistinct] on the investigations. They said that there are vague leads and we have asked to take part somehow in order to be directly informed about developments. So far there are no fingers pointing to any particular party. However, when such developments take place, we will inform the House, thank you. [end recording]

Afterwards, the House began to discuss items on the agenda. The House listened to the government's response to questions posed by a number of deputies dealing with citizens' public affairs.

Officials Receive Lebanese Ministers' Calls

JN2901175194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Minister of State Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, the acting minister of state for foreign affairs, has received a telephone call from Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Minister Buwayz conveyed the condolences of the Lebanese Government and people to the people and Government of Jordan and the family of martyr Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, who was killed by treacherous and criminal hands this morning.

Minister Buwayz voiced deep regret over this tragedy, which is considered a blow to the efforts by the Lebanese Government to ensure stable conditions in Lebanon.

Dr. Abu-al-Ghanam also received a phone call from Lebanese Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij. Minister Mirhij conveyed condolences to the Jordanian Government and people and the martyr's family. He stressed that the competent Lebanese quarters will not spare an effort to identify the criminals. He added that various security agencies have already begun investigations into this sad incident.

Dr. Abu-al-Ghanam summoned the Lebanese ambassador in Amman to his office at the Foreign Ministry. He said the Jordanian Government regrets such a painful incident and asked him to contact the Lebanese Government to conduct the necessary investigation, identify the criminals, and take the necessary measures to provide security to the members of the Jordanian mission in Beirut.

Interior Minister Salamah Hammad received a phone call from his Lebanese counterpart, Bisharah Mirhij, who voiced deep regret over the painful incident involving martyr Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut. He briefed Mr. Hammad on the measures that are being taken by the competent Lebanese quarters to investigate the incident and identify the perpetrators and take the severest measures against them.

Lebanese Delegation Arrives

JN3101122394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] A Lebanese Foreign Ministry delegation, led by Zafir al-Hasan, the Ministry's secretary general, arrived in Amman this morning to offer condolences on behalf of the Lebanese Government and people on the martyrdom of the late Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'ayitah, the counselor at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, who was assassinated by criminal terrorists in Beirut last Saturday.

On arrival at Queen Alia International Airport, al-Hasan said: The crime that was committed was an ugly crime, and we strongly condemn it. We feel great sorrow over the martyrdom of the Jordanian diplomat because the victim was one of our Jordanian brothers.

He added: We bow with appreciation to martyr al-Ma'ayitah because he offered much during his mission. We in Lebanon, and on all levels, are doing all we can to identify and punish the criminals. He emphasized Lebanon's readiness to cooperate with Jordan in order to secure their arrest.

He voiced sincerest condolences in the name of Lebanon—president, government, and people—on the martyrdom of the Jordanian diplomat, and said: We offer our heartfelt and sincerest condolences to Jordan—king, government, and people—and to the martyr's family.

Al-Majali: King's U.S. Visit 'Very Successful'

JN2901210494 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 29 Jan 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] The prime minister, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, returned home from the United States after accompanying his majesty the king on his visit to Washington and after holding talks at the United Nations on the effects of the sanctions on Jordan. The prime minister described his majesty the king's visit and talks in Washington as very successful. He told the News at Ten that he had also briefed the UN Sanctions Committee on Jordan's losses due to the sanctions imposed on Iraq and that the Committee had promised to cooperate with Jordan.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] The purpose of the meeting is to meet with the committee which has been appointed by the Security Council for the sanctions on Iraq. And I gave them a paper on this to show what is the damage to the Jordan economy, especially to our factories, because Iraq is our main market for most of the industries in Jordan. And again, we explained to them how much we are affected by the inspection of the cargo in the high seas which has cost Jordan quite a lot in the last three years. They were very understanding and they were very cooperative. And, in fact, we discussed the procedures about this, that there should be a certain base as a policy for this, so we do not have to get into the routine towards this. And I met with the secretary general, as well, to exchange with him the views about the sanctions, and in the same time to discuss the peace process.

[Reporter] Have you received any promises from them?

[Al-Majali] I think they will be very serious in discussing all what we have put to them, and we asked that we should get contribution for the damage for our economy. And we hope that we will get it. In fact, when we were in the United States again we put the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the president about these things. And they both promised to help Jordan overcome these difficulties. [end recording]

Prime Minister Meets UN Sanctions Committee

JN2801171994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali met in New York yesterday with the chairman and members of the UN Security Council Committee entrusted with implementing Resolution No. 661 of 1990 concerning the economic sanctions against Iraq. Al-Majali presented to them a report supported by ample studies and figures on Jordan's economic losses and difficulties and the negative effects on Jordan of its commitment to implementing this resolution. He emphasized his demands that the Council work for making good Jordan's losses, amounting to $300 million annually, as a result of its commitment to the Council's resolutions.

Backing his report with details and figures, the prime minister noted the complications and losses that affect the Jordanian economy, especially the sectors of transportation, transit, the free market, and the Gulf of Aqaba as a result of the inspection measures by international forces against all ships arriving and leaving the al-'Aqabah port. He explained the negative implications of this inspection for the Jordanian citizen who is living the stage of building democracy and peacemaking.

The prime minister answered questions by the committee put forward by the chairman who in turn promised to raise these issues and discuss them with all the committee members and give them priority consideration.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, Finance Minister Sami Qammuh, and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent UN representative.

Last night, the prime minister met with UN Secretary General Dr, Butrus-Ghali and exchanged views with him on the peace process in the Middle East in light of the latest developments. The prime minister briefed the secretary general on the results and the course of the Jordanian-U.S. talks held recently in Washington between the Jordanian side under His Majesty King Husayn and the U.S. side under President Bill Clinton. The prime minister raised with the secretary general the issue of the negative effect on the Jordanian economy of Jordan's commitment to UN Security Council Resolution No. 661.

The secretary general expressed an understanding of the Jordanian complaint and of Jordan's suffering because of its commitment to implementing international legitimacy.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, and Jordan's permanent UN representative 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah.

Dudin Urges Arab Meeting on U.S. Boycott Decision

JN3001120594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Jan 94 pp 1, 28

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[Text] Marwan Dudin, deputy head of the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks has called on the Arab League member states to meet without delay to discuss the amendment unanimously adopted by the U.S. Senate, which bans U.S. arms sales to countries boycotting U.S. companies that deal commercially with Israel.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dudin said it has become important that the Arab parties meet to discuss this subject very seriously so that the Arab measures will have a collective meaning, as did the original Arab League decision on the Arab boycott of Israel.

However, he said it is not strange that the U.S. Senate adopts such decisions that are supportive of, and openly biased toward Israel. This decision also shows disrespect for the broad relations between Arab countries and the United States.

He wondered how the U.S. Administration would be able to reconcile the Senate decision with the desire to activate U.S. arms sales to the Arab countries, especially the rich ones whose arms purchase figures are astronomical.

Dudin ruled out the possibility that the U.S. Administration could implement this decision unless implementation is accompanied by U.S. pressures on Britain, France, Russia, and other countries that compete with the United States in supplying Arab countries with weapons.

He expected the U.S. Administration to circumvent this decision by arguing that the peace process is at an advanced stage, and its success will lead, sooner or later, to the lifting of this boycott of Israel.

He said, however, that from the practical point of view, the decision may have one direct effect; it will intensify pressures on the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli negotiations to expedite reaching reconciliation arrangements with Israel that are below these parties' aspirations, and said such an effect is very likely.

No Peace With Israel Before Solving All Problems

JN2701111094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jan 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "No Signing of Agreements Before Resolving All Problems"]

[Text] Jordan has reiterated the need to resolve all problems with Israel before signing any peace agreement. There are many topics on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda that need urgent solution. There will be no solution if Israel does not acknowledge or respond to Jordan's requirements related to borders and occupied Jordanian territory, water and its fair distribution, or the issues of refugees who are still living in camps under the supervision of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

His Majesty King Husayn addressed these issues in his statements in the United States. He also presented them clearly in front of the representatives of the American Jewish communities and the members of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations. No peace would be achieved if these rights were not recognized or the necessary and appropriate solutions were not reached.

King Husayn noted, in one of his statements, that he heard some suggestions saying: Why does Jordan not sign a peace agreement with Israel? The king's answer was: There will be no signing of agreements before reaching a just and comprehensive peace, not with Jordan only, but also with all involved Arab parties. We do not seek incomplete or fragile peace, but a peace that will be accepted by the coming generations. We seek a peace that will consolidate security and stability in the region; a peace that will pave the way for progress and prosperity in the region; and a peace that will provide an honorable life for people, relieve their suffering, fear, concern, and deprivation, and save them from the dangers of fighting and wars.

King Husayn wanted to reiterate this so that everybody will know that Jordan has not deviated from its sound national and pan-Arab course to which it has been adhering since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. Jordan will remain, despite all circumstances, the patient and indefatigable country which defends its rights and those of its nation with honor and truthfulness.

Officials React to Murder of Jordanian Diplomat

Buwayz, Jordanian Ambassador Comment

NC2901185494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Excerpts] At 0930 today, gunmen assassinated Na'ib 'Umaran al-Ma'ayitah, first secretary at the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut, in front of his house in al-Rawshah as he prepared to go to the embassy offices in Saqiyat al-Janzir. [passage omitted]

A special Jordanian military plane carrying an official delegation headed by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayif al-Hadid arrived in Beirut this afternoon and transported the body of the diplomat to Jordan. At the airport to see the body off were Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Jordanian Ambassador to Lebanon Fakhri Abu-Talib. The ambassador hoped the Lebanese authorities find the culprits and those behind them. He stressed that the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut will remain open. He said:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Talib] I believe the Lebanese officials have made enough statements about the attack. I cannot add to what they said. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Do you believe the attack is politically motivated?

[Abu-Talib] I believe there certainly are political motives. There are no personal reasons for the killing. Someone is trying to harm both Jordan's march and Lebanon's security. Those who planned and carried out the attack do not want stability and security for Lebanon, nor do they want Jordan to continue its current political line. But despite all obstacles and difficulties, we will not change our policy, and we will take a courageous and responsible position. [passage omitted] [end recording]

For his part, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz made the following statement: [Begin Buwayz recording] As I said this morning, this is a loss for Lebanon. It is a stab at Lebanon more than Jordan. Those who try to harm stability and security in Lebanon are also trying to harm Lebanon's credibility in the political and security spheres. Of course, I will not forestall the investigations and point accusing fingers at any quarter, but certainly the tragedy reflects negatively on Lebanon above all.

I express my condolences to the Jordanian officials and to the family of the victim, and I stress that the Lebanese Government will spare no effort in conducting investigations and finding the attackers. [end recording]

Al-Hariri: Ties With Jordan Unaffected

NC3001172094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister al-Hariri said today that Lebanon will do its utmost to arrest the murderers of Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah in Beirut. Prime Minister al-Hariri has been cited as saying that yesterday's killing of al-Ma'ayitah, the first secretary at the Jordanian Embassy, will not affect relations between Lebanon and Jordan. Prime Minister al-Hariri stressed that the Lebanese Government will do all it can to arrest the criminals.

Investigators Hopeful of Making Arrests

NC3101102994 Paris AFP in English 0838 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Beirut, Jan 31 (AFP)—Investigators hunting for the killers of a Jordanian diplomat are hopeful of making arrests after witnesses provided descriptions and other information, Interior Minister Bahjah Mirhij said on Monday [31 January].

A gunman shot dead embassy first secretary Na'ib 'Umran al-Ma'aytah outside his Beirut home on Saturday and seized documents from his briefcase.

He was the first diplomat to be killed in Lebanon since the end of the 15-year civil war in 1990.

No group has claimed responsibility for the murder, which Jordan blamed on opponents of the Middle East peace process.

"Witnesses have given the security services a description of the killers," Mirhij told AFP. "This information could lead to their arrest," he said.

"Some witnesses also revealed that the killer seized a file from the Jordanian diplomat's car," he added.

According to the latest police report, al-Ma'aiytah, a 42-year-old father of three, was killed when a gunman pumped 10 bullets into his neck, head and chest as he sat in his Mercedes.

The killer then fled in another car with an accomplice.

Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials, citing Lebanese police, reported on Sunday that a file which al-Ma'aiytah had at the time of his killing had disappearred.

Jordan's ambassador in Lebanon, Fakhri Abu-Talib, said "the murder was planned and carried out by professionals and it could have taken place in any other country."

The killing came almost a week after Jordan's King Husayn said in Washington that he hoped to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to boost the chances for peace.

Several Palestinian and Lebanese groups opposed to the peace process, including pro-Iranian and pro-Syrian factions, are based in Beirut.

Hizballah Confirms Holding 2 Israelis, Not Arad

JN2801130794 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 25 Jan 94 p 24

[Dawud al-Mani dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Hizballah's Deputy Secretary General 'Ammar al-Musawi denied having information that Israeli navigator Ron Arad, missing since 1986, is being held by Hizballah.

He added: We have always and repeatedly said that Hizballah has nothing to do with Ron Arad. He confirmed that Hizballah is holding only two Israeli soldiers. [passage omitted]

Israeli Spy Ring Reportedly Uncovered; 12 Arrested

NC3101075794 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Jan 94 p 5

[Text] Security sources have reported that the Lebanese security men have uncovered a spy ring working for Israel and arrested the following 12 persons: George Habib H., Maghi 'Aql K., Shirbil Dib D., Jeanette Amin H., Joseph Pierre A., Piero Tawfiq M., Muhammad Yasin S., Raymond anu H., Muhammad Sihab J., Majid Jabir J., Mahmud F., and Kamil H. They were referred to Nasri Lahhud, the government's commissioner at the military court, who charged them with the crime of "contacting the Israeli enemy, helping him, and providing him with information that should remain secret for the sake of the state's safety and security and of preventing internal destabilization." These crimes are covered by Articles 275 and 283 of the penal law and are punishable by the death sentence.

Judge Lahhud referred the charges file to the military investigation judge.

Three 'Terrorists' Killed; 4 Wounded in Clashes

TA3101060894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] In south Lebanon, it has been disclosed that three terrorists were killed and four others wounded in two separate incidents. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the north says in one incident on Thursday morning [27 January], a group of terrorists tried to penetrate into the security zone and walked into a mine field, wounding four of them. They were rescued by local villagers.

In the other incident on Friday morning, three terrorists were killed in a firefight with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. None of the soldiers was hurt. The clash took place in Wadi al-Tannur, in the western sector of the security zone.

Resistance Attacks 'Alman, al-Shumariyah Positions

NC3001203694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] A resistance group this afternoon attacked two positions in the hills of 'Alman and al-Shumariyah with machine guns and rockets. The attack developed into a 10-minute clash between the resistance fighters on one hand and the Israeli occupation forces and the border militia [South Lebanese Army] on the other hand, according to a statement by the resistance.

Immediately afterward, the occupation forces and the militia used artillery and machine guns to rake the al-Litani River banks, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and the nearby areas.

Al-Biqa' Villages Shelled by Israeli Artillery

NC3101132294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The villages of Kawkaba, Dallafah, and Maydun in the Western al-Biqa' were subjected to artillery shelling from Israeli Army positions in al-Khiyam this morning. No casualties have been reported.

UNIFIL Mandate Extended for 6 Months to 31 Jul

NC2801134494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The UN Security Council has approved Lebanon's request to extend the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] until 31 July.

Radio: Arabs To Continue Talks 'Until The End'

JN2901155194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1226 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Washington talks are continuing among the heads of delegations taking part in the peace process. Although U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher hoped to achieve tangible progress, due to the practical atmosphere prevailing over the talks, all signs indicate that the Israelis are avoiding responding to any substantive questions posed to them, especially those concerning full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The Israelis have adopted a policy of prevarication while showing flexibility in techniques only.

The stand of the Israeli negotiators in Washington reflects Yitzhaq Rabin's views, which have been described as a halfway policy. On every occasion, Rabin calls on the Arabs to convince Israel that they really want peace, given that the Arabs have repeatedly reaffirmed their desire to achieve peace.

The Arab trend toward peace does not need further evidence or proof. Syria has presented a lot in order to render the peace process a success and its efforts have enjoyed the international community's appreciation. Syria was the center of attention during the recent Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton. The latter clearly and frankly praised Syria's stands and its true efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. President Clinton totally adopted President al-Asad's call for the peace of the brave—a just and honorable peace that removes the occupation and restores the rights to their owners.

From this we can see that Israel's prevarication has certainly not been caused by the doubts it is claims to have on Arab intentions for peace, especially Syria's intentions. It is caused by its desire to devour as much occupied Arab territories as possible under the pretexts of security, given that a firm peace is the ideal security guarantee for all the countries in the region.

It is no surprise that during his official address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Yitzhaq Rabin said he is not, and will never become, Israel's de Gaulle, in clear reference to [former] French President Charles de Gaulle's decision to withdraw from Algeria and recognize its independence. At the time, this decision was described as a brave and courageous decision and enjoyed world appreciation. Rabin added: Israel will very carefully explore the road until it is reassured of Syria's intentions toward peace and security.

It is clear to every observer that Israel, through its officials, is deliberately raising these doubts in order to put an end to the momentum of the peace process after the Geneva summit and to buffer the active and effective U.S. role. the Arabs understand peace as a full withdrawal from all their occupied territories—not from half of these territories—and a restoration of all their rights—not having them restored in increments.

The halfway policy that Rabin is promoting is a flagrant attempt to circumvent the call for the peace of the brave and the world community's expectations that Israel will rise to the level of the Geneva summit and the desired peace in the Middle East. This is especially so since, after long years of feeding the Zionist community on Talmudic illusions, kindling fanaticism, and promoting expansionist schemes, the rulers of Israel have no alternative but to adopt a true and brave stand themselves and confide in the Israeli people the facts of the 20th century and the requirements of peace, the foremost of which is a full withdrawal from the occupied territories and closing the chapter of Jewish settlements once and for all.

This bravery, which the world community is eagerly awaiting, has been frankly rejected by Rabin. Instead, he is still talking about the same security claims and fabricated doubts. It is natural for all of this to reflect on the Washington talks and for the Israeli negotiators to continue evading the requirements of the peace process and the necessary answers to substantive questions.

Because peace is an important and basic issue, on the fate of which the future of the region depends, the Arabs will continue talks until the end. The next days will reveal the extent of the rulers of Israel's response to the will of the world, the resolutions of the world community, and the results of the Geneva summit.

Paper Says Syrian-Israeli Talks 'Encouraging'

NC3001180294 Paris AFP in English 1715 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Damascus, Jan 30 (AFP)—The bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington are proceeding in an "encouraging and positive atmosphere," the official AL-THAWRAH daily said here Sunday [30 January].

In an editorial, the newspaper said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher described the negotiations as "very promising," because "he noted how serious the Syrian position was."

The bilateral talks resumed Monday after a four-month break following the signing of the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord in September, which Syria condemned, arguing that separate deals undermined the Arab negotiating position.

"The negotiations will make progress if Israel conforms to the requirements of peace, but the search for a settlement will go back to square one if the Jewish state continues to stand by its previous positions," the newspaper said.

On Wednesday Christopher described as "very promising" the new format for the negotiations, with meetings restricted to the heads of the Israeli, Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian delegations.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Comments on Staying in Office, Outside Help

PM2801160594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan report: "Rabbani Tells AL-HAYAH: I Will Not Resign Even If International Intervention Takes Place"]

[Excerpts] Peshawar, Jeddah, AL-HAYAH—The Afghan opposition yesterday announced its support for UN intervention to resolve the crisis between it and President Borhanoddin Rabbani. It accused Russia of interfering in Afghan internal affairs and of supporting the latter.

But the Afghan president told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that he rejects any proposals to internationalize the crisis in his country. He stressed that he would not relinquish power even if international military intervention takes place against him. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani stressed that his forces are in control of the strategic city of Baghlan and the surrounding areas in northern Afghanistan. He said that Uzbek militia forces and Hezb-e Eslami forces have surrendered with all their military equipment to government forces.

In his statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday Rabbani rejected any offers to internationalize the Afghan crisis, because "it is primarily an Islamic problem and concerns Islamic institutions, organizations, and states." Rabbani denied that he intends to submit his resignation. He said, "I will not submit my resignation except after the remaining six months of my term have elapsed. I will not step down even if military and international intervention takes place. Because I refuse to surrender to pressure, conspiracies, and broken pledges. I am here because I was selected by all Afghan leaders."

Rabbani pointed out that "so far all mediations have failed to find a solution to the problem or secure a cease-fire." [passage omitted]

Official Spokesman Accuses Uzbekistan of 'Interference'

BK3001110894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1057 GMT 30 Jan 94

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 30 (AFP)—Afghanistan's northern neighbour, the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, is accused of aiding a rebel faction fighting to overthrow President Borhanoddin Rabbani, according to an official spokesman in Kabul Sunday.

"We have clear-cut evidence about direct interference by Uzbekistan in the Kabul fighting," presidential spokesman Abdol Aziz Morad told AFP.

Morad said the former communist militia warlord, Uzbek General Abdol Rashid Dostam, who launched a failed coup attempt in the capital on New Year's Day, has received much military support for the one-month long Kabul factional fighting.

He went so far as to say that representatives of Dostam met with government officials in the Uzbek capital Tashkent in order to help plan the coup attempt in Kabul.

"Many facilities, both military and economic, have been put at Dostam's disposal by Uzbekistan," Morad said.

He accused Uzbekistan of not only supplying Dostam with jets, aircraft spare-parts and the construction of a military airstrip, but also of launching air-raids over Kabul and other targets from inside Uzbekistan itself.

Although Morad said it was not clear if the Uzbek interference in Afghanistan originated from the highest official level, he nevertheless demanded that a joint Afghan-Uzbek commission be appointed to investigate the charges.

The rumble of anti-aircraft fire over the capital followed three raids on Kabul by Dostam Jets before midday Sunday, with bombs exploding at the foot of the strategic "television mountain," which houses a lot of heavy artillery.

Meanwhile, fighting intensified Sunday in northern Baghlan province, where a spokesman for Hekmatyar's Hezb faction said an offensive by pro-Rabbani forces had been repulsed.

The coalition forces fire@ two long-range Luna missiles on the presidential troops in the Nahrin district, while infantry troops were also making advances towards the garrison, said Hezb spokesman Qaribur Rehman Saeed in the bordering Pakistani city of Peshawar.

He said one of the missiles, having a range of 80 to 90 kilometers (53 miles), landed in the military base built by the former Soviet troops while the other landed in Nahrin's bazar. Details of the losses were not available, he said.

Saeed, giving importance to the opening of the new front in the north amid a slowdown in the Kabul fighting, said the anti-Rabbani coalition's strategy appeared to be to engage troops of the president's main commander, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, in his northern strongholds and ultimately reach Jabalus Siraj.

The highway town of Jabalus Siraj, located in the south of Baghlan, is Mas'ud's last major base north of Kabul, he added.

He said Mas'ud had already brought troops to Kabul from his northern bases, and his Nahrin commander, Abdol Haye, was facing a shortage of manpower.

Morad was keen to note that pro-Rabbani jets, which fly out of the Soviet-built Bagram airbase 50 kilometres (31 miles) north of Kabul, are also active in the factional fighting.

Apart from the air raids, Kabul was largely spared the punishment of bombardment Sunday, with merely a

handful of rockets exchanged and quiet frontlines; this unusual lull in hostilities prompted some locals to speculate on the prospect of a ceasefire.

Dostam's ally, Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, is reported to be open to ceasefire negotiations if there was international backing, but his rival Rabbani appears sceptical of such moves.

"Neither the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference, nor any other foreign country has raised any popular and acceptable proposal to solve the Afghan crisis," Morad said.

Morad summarised by saying that the Dostam-Hekmatyar alliance has become weakened, was now on the defensive, and was looking for political solutions to its military problems.

Planes Bomb U.S. Embassy, Diplomatic Area in Kabul

LD2801183194 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Battles continue between rival forces in Afghanistan. According to reports from Kabul, fighter planes belonging to General Dostam have bombed Kabul several times in which the diplomatic Wazir Akbar Khan area, the television hill, one military base, and the American embassy were hit by bombs. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Holds Meeting With Pakistani Envoy

LD2901210794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning received Tareq Azizoddin, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul, for a meeting at the presidential palace. The presidential press office told BIA that during the meeting talks were held on the current situation of the country and issues of interest.

India

Commentary Urges Pakistan To Respond to Peace Plans

BK2701114394 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Commentary by S. Vishwam of DECCAN CHRONICLE]

[Text] One cannot recall a stretch of time in India-Pakistan bilateral relations which was not characterized by strain, stresses and tensions. Indeed, during the last four decades the course of India-Pakistan relations has been variably been marked by a pattern which has by now become quite familiar to the students of South Asian politics. A prolonged period of confrontation and hostility leads to expression of the desire for normalization and friendship. This leads to some form of dialogue which arouses expectations in both the countries. The dialogue ends either in failure or in stalemate and relations are back to square one. The recent foreign secretaries level dialogue was yet another attempt to broker peace between the two neighbors. The outcome was disappointing. In diplomatic parlance, it could be described as both sides agreeing to disagree. But instead of being put off by the failure, India has decided to go ahead and make one more attempt to induce Pakistan to try and remove some if not all of the irritants which (?clay) bilateral relations. This attempt was in the form of handing over six nonpapers containing detailed proposals in several key areas of contention in India-Pakistan relations by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, to the Pakistan high commissioner in New Delhi. The initial response to the proposals from Islamabad has predictably been lukewarm, but one hopes that a detailed study of the six proposals would persuade Pakistan to be more responsive.

These proposals may not been spectacular or sensational, but they address issues which have aggravated tension and which because of that very reason needed to be got out of the way. Indeed, one of the most innovative among the proposals is the Indian offer in the arena of building confidence and removing mistrust of a no first-use of nuclear capability. This is to ensure regardless of whether or not the two countries possess nuclear capabilities that there is no chance of a nuclear confrontation between the two. The proposal is of benefit to both the countries and hence it ought to be acceptable to Pakistan.

Again, Islamabad should consider the proposal for creating an institutional mechanism to preserve peace and tranquility along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Since the porous border has led to numerous instances of violations of the Line of Control, any mechanism which can monitor such violations and prevent them ought to be welcomed by Islamabad. It is worth remembering that agreement between India and China on the creation of an institutionalized mechanism along the border has actually resulted in trans-border tranquility and lessening of tension. There is no reason why a similar mechanism along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir cannot work.

The proposal for implementing the agreement on Siachen arrived at three or four years ago by the defense secretaries of the two countries is an earnest of India's sincerity in settling the Siachen issue once and for all. In fact, the suggestion for ensuring peace and tranquility along the Line of Control and the offer to implement the agreement on Siachen taken together constitute a major peace-offering on the part of India. Both countries have admitted that the Siachen agreement could not be implemented two years ago because of the absence of political will. Soon after returning to power after elections, the prime minister of Pakistan, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, had said that an agreement on Siachen would restore Pakistan's confidence in bilateral negotiations. By offering to implement such agreement, India is giving proof of its good faith. Indeed, the spirit in which the Indian proposals have been made are consistent with the spirit of the Simla Agreement of 1972. It is on such a basis that Islamabad must assess the six proposals. Islamabad demanding a plebiscite in

Kashmir or raising the Kashmir issue at the UN Conference on Human Rights in Geneva will not take Pakistan too far.

Prime Minister Rao Leaves for Switzerland, Germany

BK3101104994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The prime minister left New Delhi this afternoon on a six-day visit to Switzerland and Germany. He was seen off at the airport by cabinet colleagues and senior officials. Mr. Narasimha Rao has been invited by the World Economic Forum to address the closing plenary of the symposium at Davos tomorrow. The prime minister is expected to apprise the world business community of the liberalization process in India. The theme for this year's Davos meet is redefining the basic assumptions of the world economy. The meeting of the forum, which began on Tuesday, is being attended by more than 20 heads of government and state. In all 800 company chief executives and 150 government representatives are attending the deliberations.

From Davos, Mr. Rao will go on to Bonn on Wednesday on the second leg of his visit. He will hold talks with the German chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl. Both the leaders will address the Indo-German Business Conference. The prime minister will later go to Berlin where he will meet the German president.

Iran

Turkey Bombs Iranian Villages During Iraq Raid 29 Jan

LD2901120994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] During extensive military operations by the Turkish Government inside northern Iraq against the positions of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] guerrilas, who are opposed to the Turkish Government, a number of rockets and bombs hit a number of our country's border villages, killing nine Iranians and wounding 19.

After receiving the above news, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceanic affairs telephoned Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Bilgin Unan to express the deep concern of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for that tragic incident and called on the Turkish Government to give an explanation in that regard.

The deputy Turkish foreign minister said: The Turkish Government under no circumstances allows such operations inside Iranian territory, and yesterday's military operations were conducted following very precise calculations; they took place precisely inside Iraqi territory and were aimed at suppressing the PKK. The Turkish Government is ready to immediately dispach a team to the Islamic Republic of Iran to work under the supervision of the Iranian authorities to investigate the incident. He added: The Turkish Government will accept the outcome of the investigations.

When that telephone contact ended, the Iranian deputy foreign minsiter for Asia and Oceanic affairs told our correspondent that the Foreign Ministry is coordinating its efforts continuously with the Interior Ministry and other concerned organizations to follow up the case, the result of which will be announced later.

Velayati, Cetin Phone Call Noted

LD2901214994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] In the wake of the sad incident on the border between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, Mr. Hikmet Cetin, the Turkish foreign minister, who is in Switzerland for the Davos meeting, spoke on the telephone with Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister, saying: we did not in any way intend to carry out operations against Iranian territory and our aim was to bomb the bases of the Kurdish workers' party, the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan], inside Iraqi territory. The Turkish foreign minister added: We will rapidly send a delegation to carry out a joint investigation with Iranian officials and we will accept the results of this investigation, regardless of what they are.

The Turkish foreign minister also said: If such an incident did take place, it will be a source of deep regret to us and we will not forego any measure to make up for it. Cetin added: We will not allow this issue to have a negative impact on the two countries' relations.

Turkish Offer Accepted

TA3001200294 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1555 GMT 30 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan 30 (A.A)—Iran on Sunday accepted Turkey's offer to set up a special committee to investigate allegations that civilian villages were hit in Iran's border regions during Turkey's air strike on Friday against terrorist bases in northern Iraq, near the Turkish border.

AA was told by officials at the Iranian Foreign Ministry that Iran will not "at this point" ask for any compensation.

Iran had alleged on Friday that nine civilians from its border villages were killed during raids by Turkish war planes aiming at the terrorist bases in northern Iraq.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry for its part had stated that close inspection of the photographs taken of the area where the strike was held, showed that no such mistake was made.

Minister Comments on Compensation

LD3101125594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania has said in a meeting with the Turkish ambassador to Tehran that an official apology from the Turkish Government and the payment of compensation for losses suffered

by the victims of the tragic incident on the border between the two countries is the least that will be expected by the people of Iran.

Mr Borujerdi referred to the visit paid by the Turkish consul in Orumiyeh to the victims of the incident and said: The existence of these witnesses to the bombings must have removed any doubts Turkish officials may have had about the bombs falling around the Sar-e Dasht area. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly requests that the Turkish Government adopt measures ensuring that future military operations by that country in northern Iraq will not inflict any harm or damage to the Islamic Republic of Iran's borders, even if such operations take place close to our country's frontiers.

Mr. Haktanir, the Turkish ambassador to Tehran, for his part expressed deep regret over the tragic incident and said: The Iranian authorities and nation must rest assured that the plans of Turkey's military officials were to attack the positions of PKK guerrillas inside Iraqi territory, and that was precisely why we immediately sent a special fact-finding team to examine the situation close up with Iranian officials. He added: The Turkish Government will not forego any measure to make up for the losses inflicted, and the proposals of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be speedily conveyed to the Turkish authorities.

Turkish Official Regrets Incident

LD3101141394 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Prov., Jan 31, IRNA—A Turkish Foreign Ministry official here Monday expressed Ankara's deep regret over the bombardment of two villages in Sar Dasht by Turkish jet fighters on Friday.

Ogur Dugan, director general at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, who arrived here heading a military delegation to inspect bombed regions and visit the wounded, said his speedy despatch indicated Turkey's deep regret over the incident.

The team, who arrived here aboard a military plane, is to visit some of the wounded people transferred from Sar Dasht to Orumiyeh for treatment.

Friday's air raid by Turkish jet fighters left nine villagers dead and 19 others wounded.

Paper Views Attack

LD3101095694 Tehran IRNA in English 0848 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—An Iranian English daily, TEHRAN TIMES, today commented on the Friday attack of Turkish fighters on Kurdish bases inside Iraq and suggested that a permanent solution could be found through sincere and combined political efforts of Iran, Turkey, Iraq and Syria. During the attack, the fighters also fired on Iranian border villages, killing and injuring 28 Iranian nationals.

The daily cautioned in its editorial that the Kurdish problem was becoming increasingly dangerous for the entire region.

"In recent decades the 'Kurdish' card has been used by the region's countries as a weapon to intimidate each other," it said. This policy would have worked for a short while, the daily added, "but the recent involvement of Western powers in this affair will inevitably endanger the territorial sovereignty of all the countries involved."

The daily recommended regional countries to set aside their differences and work out a practical peaceful solution to this common problem "whose main victims are the Muslim Kurdish civilians."

"When the Turkish Government issues diplomatic passports for Iraqi Kurdish leaders and supports them in their efforts to disintegrate Iraq, then it should not be upset when other countries help the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan]," the daily said. It stressed that Turkey could not solve its Kurdish problem by "sending 50, or even 500 fighter bombers to massacre the Kurds."

The editorial concluded by calling for an end to the "game of politico-military one-upmanship, played by the regional powers using the Kurdish card."

Tehran Denies CIA Charges on Terrorism, Nuclear Arms

LD2801130594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran described the recent claims of the head of the CIA about Tehran's support for terrorist groups and Iran's attempts to obtain nuclear weapons as the futile repetition of Washington's previous policies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's mission at the United Nations issued a communique last night describing the repetition of such allegations as the continuation of Washington's efforts to exert pressure on Iran and achieve the U.S. Government's political motives.

The head of the CIA has said at a session of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports terrorism and endeavors to obtain nuclear weapons.

The communique issued by our country's office at the United Nations explains that the Islamic Republic of Iran is itself a victim of terrorism and that during their inspections of our country's nuclear sites, the International Atomic Energy Agency experts have testified that the U.S. claims are false.

Yazdi Leads Tehran Friday Prayers Second Sermon

LD2801165494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1134 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Friday prayers second sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, in Tehran on 28 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted: prayers, inviting worshippers to observe piety and importance of the revolution anniversary celebrations]

Another issue, to which I will briefly refer, is the issue of cooperation between the esteemed government and the Majlis. It is a pleasure to see those two big powers have full cooperation and understanding, particularly in important issues such as the 1373 [year starting 21 March 1994] budget and the Second Five-Year Development Plan. They will solve the problems through close consultation and understanding. God willing, both powers will perform their duties.

I ask the esteemed deputies to be coherent, as much as possible, and consider the future. Do not look at issues on an individual basis and through the sole consideration of your own constituency. Look at them according to the constitution, state laws, and in relation with the world. In fact, look at the current and future effects of those issues. You yourselves are, more than anyone else, aware of the important role of this kind of outlook. I ask the esteemed government, and particularly the esteemed ministers who have a role in the budget issues and the plan—on which all cabinet ministers play a role—to make the most use of experts and other consultants who may even not be so famous. The more a decision is based on expert and scientific opinion, the better its effects. [passage omitted]

The first duty of judicial power is to monitor the best implementation of the laws and confront the violators at different levels. I apologize that I cannot mention the violators' names, whether government affiliated or not, who may exist in various offices, ministries, and organizations. They have been confronted and they will be confronted. We have had some cases, which I do not want to mention here. It is not good to go on a platform and talk about shortcomings.

I would like to say here that your country's judicial apparatus is using all its power and all the supervisory devices at its disposal to supervise the rule of law in the country and confront the offenders. There are other organs that help the judiciary perform its duties properly, such as intelligence bodies, and law enforcement and popular forces. Now there might be an individual case who may come to me or to you, and faced with this situation I should not interpret this in a special way and raise the question: What is the government up to? This is why I stress the importance of a holistic and generalistic outlook and far-sightedess.

Now to the issue of Afghanistan. I would like to call on my Muslims brothers and tell them: O brothers! Enough is enough. Do not destroy your country any more. Do not fight against one another any more. Why do you not put your weapons away and sit together and talk to resolve your issues and reform your country? Do not constantly associate yourselves with certain bodies and create this ugly situation that might prompt someone to question Islam's ability to manage and rule, God forbid. It was under the banner of Islam that you succeeded in deposing the previous regime and then set out to establish an Islamic government. Can you not see our country, where in a very short period of time all the internal squabbles came to an end and the late Imam [Khomeyni], may he be admitted to God's paradise, put a stop to all the arguments? Of course we had different opinions here, and we still do, and we always will. Such differences are only natural. However, how long do you intend to inflict so much destruction on a poor country? Enough is enough; stop the civil war!

Now to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Given what you all know, one is really ashamed of all the international organizations, which according to what has recently been announced, have issued nearly 30 resolutions, only one of which has been implemented. This is the one preventing Bosnia-Herzegovina from defend itself. They have implemented this resolution pretty well, while nothing has been done about the rest; nothing of course but idle words. They are all after the partition of that Islamic land and the suppression of the Muslims. However, we are confident that the Muslims, under any condition, will not be prepared to suffer shame, and they will not concede to the partition of their country, no matter what hardship they have to endure. [crowd chants]

As the compromise agreement progresses both sides realize what the situation is. The fact that Rabin said we would not even retreat from the Golan Heights and the occupied lands shows how things are. Optimists should realize what the final outcome will be. We are certain that the home of Palestinians belongs to the Palestinians and that they should return to their home.

My time is up. There are two or three more issues that I will not talk about, but simply refer to. The approval of the Dutch Senate in connection with a legal and judicial matter—with a majority of three—that prescribes mercy killing, as they put it, is definitely rejected and condemned in our view, as the judicial and legal system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is not correct to kill a patient even in the last moments of his life, out of mercy and for a quicker release.

The remarks made by the head of the Turkish Constituent Court [as heard] are totally rejected by us. Fortunately, some Muslims in Turkey—and another fortunate thing was that the prime minister himself was involved in the matter—have rejected his remarks. That gentleman thinks—I am speaking for the judicial sector—that he can say anything he wants when he is in court. He says Islam cannot be considered as a system of government. What he has said is pointless. That judge should be told: You might be of high rank, but your legal knowledge is very poor, let alone your Islamic knowledge. You should reconsider. [passage omitted: Koranic verses]

Armenian Clergyman Killed; Body Found in Alley

NC3101095894 Paris AFP in English 0719 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31 (AFP)—The Iranian Armenian leader of a Middle Eastern Protestant sect has been found

dead after going missing two weeks ago, his Assembly of God church said here Monday.

A church source told AFP that the police had informed them on Sunday that the body of Mike Hovsepian [first name as received] were [plural as received] found in an alley in Eslamabad, a suburb of Karaj, 45 kilometers (30 miles) west of here.

Hovsepian, 49, had been killed on January 20, he said.

The official media has not reported the killing and the police not publicly announced it. But relatives of the victim, who have seen pictures of the body, said it had knife wounds.

The church officials said last week that Hovsepian had disappeared on January 29 [timeframe as received] on the way to Mehrabad airport in Tehran to receive a guest arriving from the central city of Esfahan.

A police official, quoted by the daily SALAM, denied Hovsepian had been arrested.

The Assembly of God has members in several countries of the Middle East, around 500 of them in Iran, including Armenians, Assyrians and Farsi-speakers, according to Protestant church sources.

[In a related report, Tehran SALAM in Persian on 25 January adds the following: "The Law Enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are investigating the disappearance of a Christian clergyman in Tehran.

["Asked by our correspondent about the disappearance of the Christian priest, and denying allegations of his arrest or detention, one Law Enforcement official said yesterday: For some time, this Christian clergyman had been missing and the Law Enforcement forces were investigating his disappearance.

["In a newscast on 23 January, BBC radio carried negative propaganda against Iran with a report claiming that concern for the safety of a Christian cleric in Iran was increasing.

["The radio added: A senior Christian evangelist [Enjili] in Tehran has been missing since 19 January.

["The cleric Mikailyan, who is an official of the Evangelical Armenian Church of Tehran, spoke to our correspondent last night about the [missing] clergyman and said: Hayk Hovsepian, who is the head of the Assembly of God Church, left for Iran to receiv? a family member coming to Iran from Spain. He went to [Tehran's] Mehrabad airport. Since then, there has been no news of Hayk's whereabouts.

["Mikailyan said that Hayk's disappearance was reported to the Law Enforcement forces."]

Ayatollah Khamene'i Meets With Shiite Scholars

LD2801154594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the auspicious birthday anniversary of the savior of mankind, His Holiness Hojjat Bin al-Hasan, Mahdi, the lord of the age, may God hasten his advent, the participants in the general session of the Ahl al-Bayat [Prophet Muhammad's scion] world congress from Iran and 64 other countries today met his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, guardian of the cause of Muslims, in Imam Khomeyni's mosque.

In this meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i began his speech by congratulating the auspicious birthday of the lord of the age, may God hasten his advent to the oppressed people and nations of the world, and the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt school of thought all over the world. [passage omitted]

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i considered the formation of the first ever powerful Islamic political system in Iran through the efforts of the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt—may peace be upon them—as a cause for pride among all Islamic sects and denominations. He said: The followers of the Ahl al-Bayt, may peace be upon them, have raised the flag of Islam and the Koran in this part of the world, and in continuation of the efforts and struggles by the family of purity and modesty, may peace be upon them, they have managed to rid Islam of oppression and alienation. Today, the Islamic system is a significant political rallying point devoted to serving Islam and the Muslims. [passage omitted]

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i then said that one of the main objectives of America, the world's domineering powers and their dependent political regimes, is to create a rift between the Shiites and the Sunnis. He added: The gathering of the followers of Ahl al-Bayt in Islamic Iran is step toward unifying the adherent of the great Koran. This gathering will also pave the way for unity in the Islamic world and understanding among all Islamic sects. The great nation of Iran praises God that it has been able to put all its integrity, might, and capability a global scale at the disposal of Islam and the Koran.

His eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed the sensitivity of the Islamic republic of Iran toward the issues of Muslim nations, and said: The Muslim nation of Iran does not consider itself aloof from the problems of the Muslim nations. While refraining from interference in the affairs of other countries, Iran is carefully following the issues of the Islamic world, to which it attaches great importance. The Islamic republic of Iran considers the problems of Kashmir, Afghanistan, and the oppressed but courageous nations of Palestine and Lebanon, as its own problems, and makes endeavors on a global level to resolve them.

The leader of Islamic revolution expressed profound regret at the process of fratricide in Afghanistan, and set out to question the leaders of armed parties and groups in that country. He said: What excuses can the Afghan leaders give to the Afghan nation, and what justification can they provide for the Islamic community? They have managed to deliver the kind of blow to the Afghan nation that the communists had not been able to deliver. They must know that the Islamic Ummah will question those individuals

who inflict so much destruction and bloodbath on a nation on the grounds of sectarian, partisan, and personal issues. [passage omitted]

Velayati Leads High-Ranking Delegation to Bulgaria

LD3101100794 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a high-ranking delegation left here for Sofia this morning at the invitation of his Bulgarian counterpart, Stanislav Dakalov.

The Iranian foreign minister will meet with Bulgarian President, Zhelyu Zhelev, foreign minister and a number of high-ranking officials.

Issues of mutual interest as well as important European problems such as recent Balkan developments will be among topics to be discussed in Velayati's meetings with Bulgarian officials.

During the two-day formal visit a commercial agreement as well as other documents in different fields are expected to be signed between the two countries.

Velayati Receives Lebanon's Hizballah Secretary General

LD3101153194 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Secretary General of Lebanon's Hizballah, Sa'id Hasan Nasrallah, today briefed Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the latest developments in his country and in the region.

Nasrallah, here at the head of a delegation to take part in the ahl-ul-bait conference, referred to the Zionist regime's recent aggressions on villages in southern Lebanon, the Zionists new plots to stir national unity and violate Lebanon's sovereignty.

He underlined his determination to resist against the occupying forces and defuse their plots.

Velayati in return underscored unity between Islamic and national forces against Zionist plots and called for their vigilance and resoluteness.

He also said that he was ready to support the rightful and just defence of the Lebanese Muslims against the "inhumane" aggressions of the Zionist regime to free the occupied lands and restore territorial integrity of Lebanon.

Reasons Behind Broader Turkish-Israeli Relations Viewed

NC3101144494 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Jan 94 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "Ankara in the Trap of Political Deception"]

[Text] Ezer Weizman, the president of the Zionist regime, is expected to arrive in Ankara for a four-day visit, something that is considered very important and vital for Ankara as well as for Tel Aviv.

Weizman's trip, which can be considered the first official trip by the head of the usurping Jerusalem regime to Turkey, follows trips by the Turkish foreign minister and the tourism minister to occupied Palestine.

The desire for such frequent visits at this level was not confined to Turkish echelons; Tel Aviv officials also insist on such meetings and exchanges. But both sides seem to have their own reasons and justifications for such visits.

Most political experts believe that in view of the trend of current events and efforts by most Arab governments to forge relations with the Zionist regime, Ankara seeks to accelerate the improvement of its relations with that regime and to exploit the trend of regional developments for its own good.

Ever since rounds of talks have paved the way for a compromise between the regional governments and the Zionist regime, Turkey has sought to become a link. This is what Ankara's officials hope for and the more their relations with the Zionists improve, the more this hope is boosted.

So, acquiring a false sense of popularity among the Arab governments involved in these talks has always been a reason for broadening its political relations with Tel Aviv's officials.

Among the other reasons Turkish officials insist on expanding relations with the occupying Zionist regime is to elicit greater economic and political support from the West. This economic support is needed to solve Turkey's problems such as its rising budget deficit, the daily depreciation of its currency, and the proliferating losses by Turkish economic institutions.

Lobbying for such support in the political arena is necessary to pander to the European government to end opposition to Ankara's wish to enter the EC's common market. Long have the Turks been groveling before various governments on the continent to enter the EC's common market. But because the entire Turkish population is Muslim, there has been opposition to this Turkish aspiration each time. So, Turkish officials now sense that broadening relations with Israel might be a major step toward creating change in the stances of European governments in this regard.

Strengthening and broadening Turkey's relations with the Zionist regime—as was stated earlier—is also a Zionist wish. For quite some time, the wave of Islamism has proliferated in the region and perturbed the Zionists. Their officials have expressed their apprehension at this mounting trend of Islamism in the region and have initiated efforts to combat it. The intelligentsia believe that because of the presence of strong anti-Zionist sentiment among the Muslim nations in the region, especially among the Turkish Muslims, the despots of Jerusalem have, for quite some time, taken steps to mitigate such sensitivity. They feel that every development in expanding relations

with Turkey or with any government in the Middle East will be construed as a step on the path toward achieving this objective.

According to experts in regional affairs, using Turkey as a bridge for an effective presence in these strategic and geopolitical [preceding word in English] regions of Central Asia and the Caucasus is another reason for Tel Aviv's objective of expanding ties with Ankara. The Zionists are pursuing this particular strategy unilaterally with regard to Turkey. Informed observers say that there are 4,000 experts from the Zionist regime in the Central Asian republics engaged in economic, political, security, and propaganda activity. Naturally, expanding their activities demands that the Zionists have more extensive relations with the region's governments.

Most experts in regional affairs believe that broadening Ankara-Tel Aviv relations will benefit the usurping Zionist regime more. They believe that by broadening relations, greater benefits will accrue more quickly to the Zionist regime and that what is being given to Ankara are empty promises in the form of probable economic assistance or the creation of an atmosphere conducive to gaining some eventual benefits from regional circumstances.

All the Arab governments involved in talks with the occupying Jerusalem regime have constantly received similar promises from the Western countries to motivate them to expand relations with Tel Aviv.

But at least the experience of the past few months of the PLO-Israel compromise and the way in which 'Arafat and his associates have been deceived by this accord should prove an instructive experience for those who, in the Islamic region of the Middle East, are being drawn to soar on their wing toward the despots of holy Jerusalem.

Radio Views PLO-Israeli Talks; Notes Problems

LD3101141194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Discussions in Switzerland between PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres, foreign minister of the occupying Zionist regime, on differences regarding autonomy for Gaza and Jericho ended yesterday afternoon, but the problems have not been solved.

Differences continue to exist over the Jericho region, control of the Gaza-Jericho autonomous region's borders with Egypt and Jordan, and the security situation in the Zionist occupied settlements in Gaza and Jericho.

It is said that Yasir 'Arafat, representing the Palestinian side, lacks effective levers or pressure on the Zionist bully, and that he accepted some mediocre solutions in the Davos talks and passed on suggestions through Shim'on Peres, foreign minister of the Zionist regime, to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of the occupying regime so that he could announce the final view regarding them.

At the end of yesterday's discussion 'Arafat tried again to create the illusion that differences between the Palestinian and Israeli sides are being solved, and hoped that a new agreement will soon be signed between Rabin and himself in the presence of Mubarak. However, Shim'on Peres declined to express hope over the Davos talks.

Some political analysts believe the failure to determine a date for signing the new agreement indicates the vagueness and lack of clarity rather than a definite outcome of talks between 'Arafat and Peres—in particular because it has been decided that they should continue the discussions in Cairo.

Meanwhile it seems that 'Arafat hopes, through concessions to the Zionist side, to take over the internal affairs of Gaza and Jericho soon. Thus 'Arafat's hopefulness is more a result of concessions to Israel but it is not clear whether the occupying regime will be satisfied with the new concessions, particularly because from the point of view of the Zionist regime the issue of controlling the borders of Gaza and Jericho with Egypt and Jordan is related to the security of the Zionist regime and this is not an issue over which Israel would easily come to an arrangement or hand over completely to the Palestinians.

From the point of view of the Zionist regime, the security of the occupiers is supreme to any form of credibility and it must be maintained at any cost, even with the violation of the security and national sovereignty of others. However, it is possible to predict that talks between 'Arafat and Tel Aviv will continue endlessly over differences and obstacles to the Gaza-Jericho plan.

'Arafat has burned all his bridges behind him and Israel feels that the present buoyant situation is in its interests because, without giving any rights to the Palestinians, it is receiving concessions from the Arabs and the West. This situation was predicted earlier because the autonomy agreement was designed to have sufficient ambiguity and contradictions as to allow excuses for delays to its implementation.

However, the problem is not limited to the Davos talks. The main crisis lies in the occupied lands. Israel has intensified its suppression and the Palestinians have intensified the conflict with the Zionist occupiers. The presence of 'Arafat's Fatah forces alongside the Islamists in confrontation with the Zionist regime is significant. This is an indication that 'Arafat has lost the game not only to Israel. A more important card is the people of the occupied lands and the younger radical Fatah forces whom 'Arafat has lost to the Islamists and the Islamic intefada.

In the past few days, while discussions were under way between 'Arafat and Israel, radical Fatah youths carried out at least two anti-Israeli operations which indicate that differences between Fatah and 'Arafat are increasing.

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